



From the Director's Desk

IFSI has been busy and moving forward since our last newsletter. We have continued to improve our courses and classes, our training props, and the processes and procedures we use to accomplish our mission. I remain extremely proud of the work we do in support of the fire service in Illinois, nationally, and internationally. I am always proud of the way in which we seek improvement and evolve our courses in order to ensure we remain second-to-none. The spring 2015 burn/training season promises to be a great one. Your efforts continue to be recognized as the finest first responder training and education in Illinois and the nation. Below are some highlights of what we have accomplished and a clear indication that your contributions are making a difference.

Curriculum and Testing. We continued and are nearly complete on our efforts in developing Step-1 for all high-end classes. In December IFSI received our ProBoard five-year reaccreditation. The inspection team had zero findings and left IFSI with a number of curriculum "best practices" they intend to share nationally. This was the culmination of a years' worth of preparation and planning by the curriculum team and the program staff that supported them. During 2015 we will explore and pursue International Fire Service Accreditation Council (IFSAC) accreditation.

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

We moved forward and have begun using our regional testing sites to better support our students. IFSI continues to lead the way in training and educating first responders who are capable, competent, and evaluated rigorously.

HR, Organization and Structure. Since my last newsletter we have made continued progress in our effort to get the "right people on the bus and having them in the right seats". We are moving forward in the filling of two Assistant Director for Facilities positions. And we are conducting a full review of our organizational position descriptions and duties. This effort will ensure our position descriptions match what people are actually doing.

Training and Education. Training and education (T&E) and the associated prop development has continued to keep pace with and anticipate the needs of the Illinois fire service. We have completed or are near completion on the following;

- a. Three new live burn props.
- b. New oil rail car.
- c. New truck tanker training prop.
- d. Apparatus upgrades – new engine and two new ladder trucks.

- e. Crude Oil by Rail Awareness class. In order to meet the needs of first responders in Illinois relative to the significant increase in crude oil rail movement through Illinois, we have begun delivering this newly-developed class. We are also expanding and updating our hazmat and oil program curricula in order to reflect the challenges of Bakken Crude and input from railroad experts in the latest best practices relative to rail disasters. The Crude Oil by Rail Awareness class is extremely popular. As of this writing we have delivered 47 Crude Oil by Rail Awareness classes reaching 1,258 first responders.
- f. Connecting the latest in research to our training and education ensuring our instructors and students are exposed to the most current fire science that effects their work and safety.
- g. Chief Burke and Tad Schroeder, with the support of our PMs and SMEs, are reviewing the firefighting foundation classes in order to ensure consistency and quality.
- h. Fire College 2015 – planning is well underway with a new and expanded course/class offering planned. Advanced registrations are being accepted until May 29. See page 30 for all the details.
- i. On-line learning. In 2015 we will:
 - Execute the first blended Rope Operations Course – currently underway with 34 students! Fall offering already has 12 students registered.
 - Offer our first on-line basic and advanced firefighter courses.
 - Offer our first blended HazMat Operations course.
 - Offer the first on-line HazMat Refresher Course.
- j. We continue to expand our international partnerships. Hong Kong FD will send students through our HazMat series and our Instructor I and II courses during 2015.



Royal P. Mortenson
Director

Director
Royal P. Mortenson

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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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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.

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Welcome to spring (I think). The institute is extremely busy with a variety of activities and changes. January's Winter Fire School was a success with an increase in attendance and excellent evaluations from students. Changes this year included hands-on activities, live burns and a number of top-notch classroom programs. Great job was done by all!

As we move into the spring we are delivering a variety of new "blended" course options. In February we began delivering the first "Blended Rope Operations" class which had 34 students enrolled (with students on the waiting list). This is just the first of a variety of "blended" course options to be available this year. Others will include Fire Service Instructor 1, Hazardous Materials Operations and later this year or early next year, Firefighter Basic. A "blended" course is one where we have "flipped the classroom" allowing students to complete lecture activities and an assortment of self-guided activities on their own, in advance of traveling to IFSI or some other regional training site to complete hands-on skill practice and validation. The goal is to make programs available and more accessible to firefighters throughout Illinois.

We are also now scheduling some of IFSI most challenging classes in a weekend format. In May we will offer Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician (Formally RIT Under Fire), with Engine Company Operations, Truck Company Operations and Smoke Divers still to be scheduled. This also allows individuals who work Monday through Friday an opportunity to participate in some of the best fire training programs in the country.

As part of a plan to get a better accounting of equipment and supplies we implemented a number of new initiatives This winter all IFSI SCBAs and bottle were returned to the institute for inventory and annual service.

"The Institute" news around & about

This allowed the staff to service a majority of our SCBA equipment in the winter during the slow burn time. We will reset the yearly service schedule to complete this project annually during the winter.

Beginning in March all programs and classes began using the new Resource Management System (RMS) to request class equipment and supplies. This sophisticated tracking system will help us assure needed resources are available for every class and help to identify where we need to invest in additional or new equipment. Training on the new system was provided during the past few months to Program Directors, Program Managers, and the Regional Representatives. Like all new programs, there is a learning curve. But I am sure that once in place everyone will have what is needed to continue to deliver top-shelf programs.

A number of improvements to props and the grounds continue into the spring and summer. IFSI is taking delivery of a new Engine, Ladder Tower and Aerial Truck to support the programs students want and to make IFSI the best live-fire burn training facility in the U.S.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time with ideas, thoughts or information you think I should have or know.

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



*Jim Keiken
Deputy
Director*

Directors Message continued from page 1

Leadership Development and Decision-Making (LDDM) program development. This ground-breaking program concept continues to make tremendous progress. We conducted an internal dress rehearsal/dry-run of a good portion of the curriculum in February. This effort allowed our instructors to practice delivering the curriculum with real students at each level of the fire service – chief, company officer, and firefighter. We will host the second Leadership Development Work Shop and Conference in late May 2015 to be followed by pilot deliveries around the state beginning in the fall of 2015. This concept for a "cradle-to-grave" fire service leadership development/decision-making training and education continuum with consistent

themes, priorities, and lines is fully supported by Illinois fire service leadership and has a nation-wide level of interest. This educational effort focuses on institutionalizing the highest quality leadership in the fire service for the state of Illinois. 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.

Research. Our firefighter life safety research program continues to grow and expand its national recognition. Our partnership with institutions like UL and NIST is expanding. This year's research efforts include:

- a. Study of the impact of fire attack utilizing interior and exterior streams on firefighter safety and occupant survival.

continued on page 5

Table Talk

Life is full of speed bumps, in both the professional life and the personal one as well. This article is about one of those speed bumps that was right in front of a giant pothole. If you follow the IFSI home page you noted that our Instructor of the month for January was John Leonard, you also saw the note that John had lost his battle with cancer in January.



*Mac
McCastland
Associate
Director*

If you knew John, it was like getting hit with a hammer. Many years ago, my bride and I were sitting at the airport waiting for a flight to take us away from the Chicago winter, when I noticed a guy sitting a couple of rows in front of me with a tattoo on his neck. I thought "I've seen that some place". As the line moves to the luggage check I see the Maltese Cross with Chicago. It was then that I recalled John being a student at IFSI. After we got to Mexico we ran across John and his lady Elsbeth in the lobby of the same hotel where we were staying, and the conversation started about the "job". John was a Lieutenant on Hook & Ladder 20 out of the south side of the city, quarters shared by Engine Company 54. This house at 71st Street and Parnell is one of the busiest in the city for fire duty.

In 2005, at the annual Fire College, we came up short a couple of instructors in one of the firefighting classes. John was attending and I grabbed him and asked if he could help out, John jumped at the chance and I hired him on the spot (our hiring policies were a little different then).

That started a relationship that was beneficial for IFSI, John, and all he touched and it ran at full speed until

the day in late 2014 when he laid up. John worked across several of the IFSI programs, but brought the most to our programs that were designed to help newly-promoted or young officers. He helped them to understand what being a fire department officer was all about. The students' exposure to John brought them not only knowledge, but the passion John had for the "job". John drank the "Kool Aid" of the fire service, a proud man who knew that this job was not about self, but about others – those we serve, those we work with, and those coming behind us.

I'm very humbled and honored to be able to say "God afforded me the opportunity to spend time with John at IFSI as well as 71st and Parnell". I would stop at Engine 54, Hook and Ladder 20, quite often on my way to IFSI's office in the Quinn Fire Academy – but in retrospect not often enough. We would sit in the kitchen, between runs, and talk shop. John was quick to relate how much he had learned from his association with other firefighters and fire officers from around the state. He said working and learning from the smaller fire departments made him a better Truck Officer in the city. He learned that not every one runs with six, and they taught John how to better utilize the folks he had on the rig.

Every time I would get up to leave John would offer a cup to go, walk me to my vehicle and we would spend a few more minutes on the apron talking shop. We never said "good-bye" only "see you next time" and that holds true today! I don't know how to say "good-bye" to a friend. I will – along with all he touched – miss him.

So until next time: HOOK & LADDER 20 – TO QUARTERS.

ALL NEW
91st Annual
Fire College
June 4-7, 2015

Recent changes to how IFSI supports classes

This spring brings a number of changes to IFSI with regard to how we support our training activities both on- and off-campus. While this work should be largely invisible to IFSI students, I wanted to raise awareness to how we're staffed behind-the-scenes to maintain, contract, and move resources throughout the state.

First, in 2014 we reorganized so that our facilities and janitorial staffs report to the Site Operations Staff. This move better connects our support team members with the programs that are on-deck at a given time. Greg Evans supervises this group, with direction from Tad Schroeder (Site Operations Officer) and support from me (Associate Director). Chris Dupee is our Building Service Worker (BSW) Sub-Foreman, and in 2014 Scott Gadbury joined us as a BSW. They work a staggered schedule to clean and support our classes from 0430 – 2030 Monday through Friday, and when multiple classes occur on the weekend. We are currently in the process of hiring an Assistant Facilities Manager to oversee on-site maintenance.

Respiratory Protection also reports to the Site Operations group. Jeff Lattz will be rejoining our staff to lead the group later this spring after an extended absence, and in December Grant Gula and Jacob Hutchcraft were trained to perform SCBA maintenance on IFSI-owned equipment.

Eric Barnes has expanded responsibilities with forecasting and tracking consumable and capital equipment used during all

of IFSI's 1,170 classes that were held last fiscal year, and in January Dustin Sears was added to Eric's team to ensure that as Eric focuses on more projects and leads the development of IFSI's new Resource Management System (RMS), we continue to have adequate staff to keep items on the campus stocked, shipped, and received in support of our classes.

Mark Berg continues to lead IFSI's ground support program, ensuring that IFSI's fleet of 40 course trailers, nine tow vehicles, and 17 other vehicles are maintained, safety-inspected, and are where they need to be when they need to be there. Mark is supported by Joyce Davis and our ground support staff.

IFSI also expanded Ann Jack-Haluzak's responsibilities late in 2014. In addition to her work in the Special Operations Training Program, Ann is coordinating rental of the IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center spaces to both on- and off-campus groups. She is also managing the complex and ever-changing IFSI internal calendar, providing a birds-eye view of which parts of the 28-acre facility are available or in use each day of the year.

Lastly, in addition to his duties as the On-Campus Firefighting Program Director, Tad Schroeder is serving as the Site Operations Officer. He serves as a critical bridge to connect the on-deck classes with the resources they need to execute their missions.



*Brian R. Brauer
Associate
Director*

Directors Message

continued from page 3

- b. Study of the effects of repeated moderate-intensity radiant exposures on SCBA face-piece properties.
- c. Cardiovascular and carcinogenic risks in modern firefighting. This research will utilize a new research prop/building which is near completion on our campus.
- d. A case study of how a department's culture changes following a line of duty death.
- e. National Safety Culture Change Initiative, available from ffsafetyculture.org.

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 con-

tinues to partner with University of Illinois departments, Motorola, NIST, UL, and others to increase the safety and survivability of firefighters on the fireground. During the coming year we will have nearly \$2 million in life safety research grants.

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 remain honored to be part of the great Institute.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Royal P. Mortenson'.

Royal P. Mortenson
Director

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

Northwest Region



Ray Palczynski
Cornerstone
Northwest
Region

For the first time in decades IFSI will be delivering an Instructor I class in the Northwest Cornerstone region. The Erie Fire Department held the Instructor I class that was delivered over two weekends in March. The class was a sell out! The normal maximum number of students is 30. Due to the high interest level, IFSI adjusted the number of instructors to accommodate 37 students! This is a landmark occurrence. The region has been seeking this training for years but could never coordinate



interest. Thanks to the outstanding efforts from members of the Erie, Cordova and Hillsdale Fire Department's the class has become a reality. Thirty-seven students from 15 different departments participated in this training. Nice job everyone!

The three fire fighters responsible for helping make this happen:

Jared Barber, Erie FD
Jason Floming, Cordova FD
Kody Kessler, Hillsdale FPD

Northeast Region



Randy Schlichter
Cornerstone
Northeast
Region

Greetings from the land up north.

Once again, the Cherry Valley FPD will host four, **NO COST** live fire "Light & Fights" on May 2, September 12 and November 7. The classes will be held at the Cherry Valley Regional Training Center (RTC) 4901 Blackhawk Rd. Rockford Ill. To register call Sue at 815-332-5382.

This class delivers fundamental training in increments convenient to meet the needs of individual department members. Hands-on live fire training is set up in several different scenarios for all firefighters and their experience level. During the training rotations students will train on basic SCBA, hose handling and movement, ladder raises, carries, climbing, tool handling, and proper tool selection for the assigned task. Additionally, the coordinated drills will offer students an opportunity to work as a member of a fire suppression team, and introduce very basic RIT and Saving Our Own concepts.

Minimum participation restrictions shall apply. NOTE: Participants must furnish approved helmet, turn out gear, eye protection, gloves, SCBA and boots for this class.

Last summer and fall, the Rockton FPD and Genoa/Kingston FPD hosted "Grain Bin Rescue Awareness" classes. Within a few days of the classes, both

departments had actual Grain Bin emergencies. One incident was an actual rescue and the other unfortunately a recovery.

Afterwards, both departments contacted Grain Bin Program Manager Dave Newcomb and stated, "as a result of taking the class the scene management; patient assessment/stabilization and tactical decision-making ran smooth".

You never know how soon your training will pay off. Here is a skill I hope none of us ever have to use, but it is a skill that can prove beneficial if needed.

Here is a link to short video that I think you will like on Bunker Gear CPR. <http://fd-cpr.com>. Thank you Leland Fire/Rescue for the link.

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



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

East Central Region

Keep your calendars open! Numerous Cornerstone training opportunities are coming your way throughout the East Central Region. The month of March was busy with 17 classes and the trend continues. Starting April 1, we have 13 classes on the schedule, and I am excited to share that even more training opportunities are in the process of being finalized.

The Dwight Fire Department has a unique training opportunity with the closing of the State of Illinois' Women's Prison in Dwight, Illinois. IFSI is collaborating with the Dwight Fire Department to conduct multiple training classes at this potential site. Chief Johnson of Dwight has been working hard to obtain permission to conduct public safety training in their buildings and on the prison grounds. Stay tuned to the IFSI website and the East Central Region training schedule for upcoming classes and dates.

Other Cornerstone classes offered throughout the East Central Region include the following: Champaign Co. – Ag Rescue, Grain Bin Awareness, Large Animal Rescue Engine Company Operations, Acquired Structure Burn X 2, Thermal Imaging Camera X 3, Douglas Co. – Master Stream Operations, Dewitt Co. – Fire Behavior and Smoke, Building Construction, High Rise Operations, Ford Co. – Basic Company Officer, Company Inspections, Basic Tactics & Strategies, Jasper Co. – Crude Oil Awareness, Kankakee Co. – R.I.T. Basic, McLean Co. – Fire-ground Communication, Basic Tactics & Strategies, New Car Technology, Grain Bin Awareness, Ag Rescue, Vermilion Co. – Essentials II X 3.

At this time some funding is still available in the East Central Region for Cornerstone classes. Don't hesitate to contact me to arrange a class in your department or division.



Tim Meister
Cornerstone
East Central
Region



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

South Region



Tim Bragg
Cornerstone
South
Region

Keep Going South

The Fire Departments of South Region have been very active in requesting classes and hosting all types of classes. As of the time of this writing, IFSI has 45 classes on the books and scheduled in the South Region. These classes cover the full spectrum of classes that IFSI offers. The classes range from all types of Cornerstone classes to ICS/NIMS classes to Hazardous Materials classes. In a nut shell, more and more IFSI classes are being requested, scheduled, hosted and held in southern Illinois.

The South IFSI Region has seen an increase in fire departments requesting Basic Auto Extrication, New Car Technology, Technical Rescue Awareness, Fire Behavior & Smoke, Courage to Be Safe and Fire Service

Vehicle Operator classes. IFSI would like to increase the number of Fireground Management for Small Career & Volunteer Departments, Basic Strategy & Tactics, Acquired Structure House Burns, Wildland Fire Fighting and Fire Officer Program classes scheduled for firefighters in the South Region.

In the past several months, Cornerstone classes have been hosted by fire departments in Southern Region counties that have not participated in the Cornerstone Program for a while. Welcome aboard again to Pulaski, Union and Jackson Counties! Thanks to all fire departments, returnees and veterans for requesting training classes for your firefighters from the South Region Cornerstone Program.



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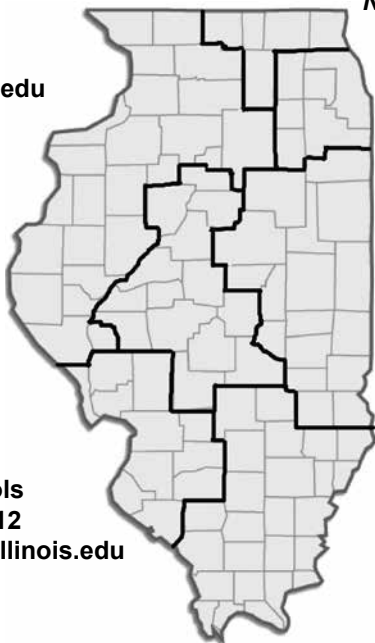
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Cornerstone Regions

From your Region: Cornerstone Reports

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

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

Another beneficial aspect to the Cornerstone Program is that any member of any Illinois fire department can attend a Cornerstone class in another town. If members of your department are seeking training in any fire service subject, please

have them check our website for a class in your area.

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

- Tazewell County Fire School – May 2 & 3
- Fire Behavior & Basic Strategy & Tactics – Buffalo – May 5
- Large Vehicle Extrication – Williamsville – May 30

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

Stay Safe and Smart
Jim Vaughn



*Jim Vaughn
Central
Regional
Representative*

Southwest Region

Hello from the Southwest Region. As this spring newsletter is in print, that means we are getting closer to the end of the fiscal year. It has been a good year in the Southwest region as we have passed the 100th class for this year. This has been three years in a row that we have reached this milestone. I would like to thank all of the fire departments that have hosted classes for this year.

One of the major classes yet to happen is the one day Bond County fire school, which is to be held on April 11, 2015 at Greenville, IL. They will be offering four classes: Crude Oil Awareness, Basic Tactics and Strategy, Basic Truck Company and Basic Engine Company. There is still room for additional students in all four classes.

The picture at right is from Advanced Auto Class in Gillespie, IL. The students are doing a dash lift on a car that ended up in the back of a school bus.

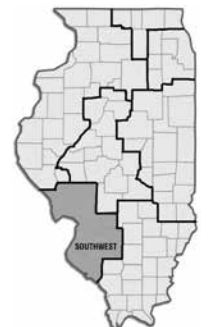


Thanks for your support for the Cornerstone Program, and it is not too late to have a Cornerstone class yet this year. I am already receiving several requests for the next fiscal year.

If I can be of any help to you on setting up a class please call.



*John Nichols
Southwest
Regional
Representative*



From your Region: Cornerstone Reports



*Rich Stack
Chicago Metro
Regional
Representative*

Chicago Metro Region

The introduction of Crude Oil by Rail as a new Cornerstone class has been a big success with many requests for the class. If you are not familiar with this class give your regional representative a call.

Something new to the Chicago Metro Area this year is the offering of three firefighting classes at Orland's Training Tower. IFSI will be hosting Engine Operations June 22 through June 25, Truck Operations June 29 through July 2 and Smoke Divers August 25 through August 28. Look for these classes on the IFSI web site.

In January the Evanston Fire Department hosted a Cornerstone class. During the class a couple of student shared that they had a MAYDAY

earlier. Fortunately, the Evanston Fire Department had sent its members to the RIT Under Fire program at IFSI. The firefighter that called the MAYDAY heard a pass device and found a downed firefighter. He quickly called a MAYDAY. The firefighters related that they knew what to do and that he and his partner were able to quickly and efficiently remove the downed member from the building.

The fiscal year is coming to an end on June 30 so if your fire department is interested in hosting a Cornerstone class please call or email me right way.

Train like your life depends on it because it does!

Rich Stack



*Mike McCastland
Structural
Collapse
Program
Manager*

Structural Collapse

It's been a long, cold, snowy winter and I think we're all ready for some warmer weather. So pack away your parkas, break out your flip-flops and let's get ready for an awesome 2015 schedule at IFSI.

This is what we have planned:
Structural Collapse Operations
September 14 – 18 in Champaign
August 24 – 28 in Frankfort

Structural Collapse Technician
May 4 – 8 in Champaign
October 5 – 9 in Champaign

The new Technician Level Con-Ed classes are available upon request through the SOTP Program Director, Mac McCastland. These are designed to be 8-10 hour "refresher" training for technician level rescuers. Dates and funding are both limited so if you're interested, please reach out to Mac as soon as possible. He can be reached at jmccastl@illinois.edu or 708/906-6327.

We were not only the first federal certified class in the country but we also have the best-trained instructional staff. Every one of our instructors is a local rescue team technician, ~80% are

USAR ILTF1 members, two are USAR structural engineers, and two are FEMA engineers.

We prepared a great schedule of opportunities at the most realistic training site in the nation. Come see for yourself. Sign up early – class size is limited.



From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

With spring nearly here and warm weather not too far off, some of you may be turning your thoughts to training. We are offering two level 1 and level 2 classes this year, with registration information available on the IFSI page.

The first blended learning class has come on line and registration for this program filled quickly. This program is a great way for individuals who want to take the Rope Operations Level 1 and cannot

Rope Rescue Program

commit to five straight days. Under the blended format, students do most of the work on line; then spend a Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday to complete the hands-on portion of instruction. There are two of these classes being offered so far this year but this does not mean that more cannot be added if the interest is there.

The Rope Operations Level 1 and Rope Technician Level 2 programs have been updated to the new NFPA 1006 standards. The Level 2 program contains new drills that deal with rigging for elevator shafts and tower rescue operations. The Rope Field Operations Guide is now into its second edition and contains a lot of new information pertaining to elevator rigging and alternatives for highline trolley tensioning. Rigging safety is always the first concern when setting up operations for training and for real, like always post incident critiques are always a must.

As always the rope instructional staff is just a click away for any of your questions. I get emails from people all the time asking about rigging and equipment and will get back to you ASAP. And as always keep your rigging safe.



*Mike Woodard
Rope Rescue
Program
Manager*



The photo at left shows training at the Orland Park Training Center. During this rappelling drill students also learned how lock off a rack while on rappel.



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

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Hazardous Materials



*Chris Downey
HazMat
Program
Manager*

If you haven't sat through one yet, you need to get yourself to a Crude Oil by Rail Awareness course. With 32 class deliveries and 577 students trained, this is currently one of IFSI's most popular classes. The topic is timely, the time commitment is minimal, and the information is practical. Students learn how to isolate the incident, identify the problem, and make proper notifications; as well as basic railcar anatomy and an overview of tactics used at these types of incidents. This course should be used to supplement the hazardous materials training you are already doing, as many of our upcoming classes have still have seats available. If you are interested

in hosting a class and are in a region that is seeing a lot of crude oil trains, contact your IFSI Regional Rep or check out the schedule at www.fsi.illinois.edu.



Confined Space Rescue



*Ryan Reynolds
Confined Space
Program
Manager*

Confined space rescues present many challenges to the first responder. These rescues present unique hazards that require specialized training, procedures, personal protective equipment, rigging, and equipment. Once the incident has been identified and a rescue plan developed, appropriate tactics and methods are then applied. Each of these rescue methods and elements contain specific details and data. Quickly recalling and executing these details can often affect the outcome of the incident.

In an effort to aid the responding confined space rescuer, we are in the process of developing a Confined Space Rescue Field Operations Guide (FOG). This pocket guide will put this valuable information at the rescuer's fingertips in an easy-to-use format. The intent of this FOG is to help the properly-trained rescuer execute a safe, efficient, and effective confined space rescue.

The Confined Space Rescue FOG manual is expected to be finalized by the end of the summer and available for purchase by the end of 2015.



From the Campus: NIMS Program Report

IFSI Offers Full Slate of Incident Management Classes in 2015

The Illinois Fire Service Institute will continue to offer several different types of incident management classes in 2015. The classes have been filling quickly as many local response agencies see the need to develop incident management teams in their local jurisdictions. The “flagship” of the ICS series, Command and General Staff for Local Incident Management Teams continues to be popular and the following offerings are scheduled for 2015:

Macomb 5/4-8/15
Woodstock 5/11-15/15
Jacksonville 6/8-12/15
Springfield 7/6-10/15
Wheaton 7/20-24/15
Sherman 8/21-23 & 28-30/15
Elgin 9/14-18/15
Ottawa 9/18-20 & 25-25/15

The IS 300/400 series classes continue to be popular throughout the state. The IFSI class offers a third day of training that allows for an exercise in incident action plan development to be incorporated in the IS 300 class. The classes are scheduled in the following locations:

Braidwood 300, 05/04/15 – 05/06/15
Braidwood 400, 05/07/15 – 05/08/15
Normal 300, 05/15/15 – 05/17/15
Normal 400, 06/27/15 – 06/28/15

The Position Specific Classes continue to be popular for individuals

NIMS Training

either presently serving on or looking to become part of a local incident Management Team. The classes cover one of the eight command and general staff positions. Individuals get an in-depth look at the duties and responsibilities that each position has in the management of the incident and in the development of an incident action plan. The IFSI classes offer a final exercise that helps to tie the position into the development of an IAP. The position specific classes are scheduled in the following locations:

All-Hazards/Position Specific Training
Planning Section Chief,
McHenry Co - July 13-16
Safety Officer, Wood River - Aug17-21

The IFSI classes that are offered in the ICS series are located at various locations around Illinois. If you are interested in finding out when these classes are available please go to the IFSI website and look under the NIMS tab. These classes are grant funded for 2015 so there is no charge to take the class, however travel costs to and from the class, lodging (if needed) and meals are the responsibility of the student or the sponsoring agency of department.

These classes are all subject to cancellation due to low student numbers. All are listed on the IFSI web site.



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



Director Mortenson welcome guests to the Opening Ceremonies of the New Spaces of Translation: Third International Conference on Translation and Related Disciplines

The Center for Translation Studies of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Université Diderot, Paris, France held a New Spaces of Translation: Third International Conference on Translation and Related Disciplines held at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Conference Center.

This is the product of over five years of work that began with Director Richard Jaehne's vision for a state of the art international conference center in the new IFSI Learning Resource and Research Center (LRRC).

From the Campus: SOTP Program Reports

Trench Rescue



*Brock Herion
Trench Rescue
Program
Manager*

How do you define Safe?

There are many shoring options available to help facilitate Trench Rescue Teams during an incident. One of the constant questions we field from student's deals with the shoring question of can we do this? Our usual instructor reply is it safe. Probably not the answer a student is looking for, so let me take some time to define it.

The quick answer to any shoring question has to involve tabulated data. Whether you reference the OSHA timber charts or a manufactures certified data, this has to be the starting point for building and gridding out your protective system.

After you make the determination whether you can or cannot use that system, let's talk about building and pressures. First, our practices at IFSI involve building a box and then a system. A box consists of at least

a top layer and bottom layer of struts shot to the operating pressure and then secured. If the bottom strut is greater the 2' from the floor of the trench, you will need another layer. Once this "safe" box is created, rescuers can work in this area only. While those rescuers are working to remove the victim, another column of struts needs to be installed. Once these struts are shot to the operating pressure and secured, you now have a system.

The strut pressures need to be shot to manufacture recommendations. At IFSI, we shoot all pneumatic struts to 200 psi before anyone enters the trench. As a side note, this meets the recommendations of each strut manufacture.

So what is safe? At IFSI we think safe is building a box and then a system. We think having all struts shot to 200 psi before entering is safe. We think having each strut locked, pinned, and nailed as the rescuers work their way down the trench is safe.

In closing, following the tabulated in the OSHA timber or manufacture guidelines is extremely important at any trench incident or live training scenario.

This system is built to create a protection area for the rescuers. Wouldn't you want it to be safe?



Here is a completed box.



Here is a completed system.

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

Soon to be completing my first year as Assistant Director of Firefighting Programs at the Illinois Fire Service Institute (IFSI), I write this article saddened with the loss of our January 2015 instructor of the month, Lieutenant John Leonard. John was a great friend of mine and one of the best truck officers I ever had the honor to work with. John worked 35 years for the Chicago Fire Department with 30-plus years assigned to Truck 20 in the 18th battalion located at 71st and Parnell, otherwise known as the Island of Parnell.

John was a true “warrior” as a number of our friends and coworkers commented when reflecting about him. John’s heartfelt presence on the fire ground is depicted in pictures of him carrying a Haligan bar, Stream-light flashlight, TIC (Thermal Imaging Camera), and smiling. One of John’s favorite sayings was to “Drink our Kool-Aid.” This little quip came out often at Fire Ground Company Officer School while John was teaching. Once he felt that the students understood the IFSI message of learning and put it into practice, he told Lew Lake the Program Director that “the kids are drinking our Kool-Aid Lewie!” IFSI offers a great message of knowledge, safety, and survival. Lt. John Leonard understood this message and lived



it. John will remain in our hearts forever as we carry out his legacy and continue to instruct the firefighters of Illinois to drink the IFSI Kool-Aid.

There is no better testimony that the firefighters of Illinois are indeed listening to our message than the number of students coming to our classes. Winter Fire School, organized this year by Mark Clapp, was a huge success. From the fire side, almost one hundred students participated in an Engine Op’s Class headed by Chief Tom Schubert. The firefighters taking this class were involved in four separate scenarios each with “live-fire” exercises. The student evaluations and comments were fantastic and begged for more of the same. Chief Pete Van Dorpe had a well-attended lecture on “Modern Fire Behavior” that mesmerized the audience with eye-opening facts about fireground tactics supported by data from UL and NIST studies.

Director Royal Mortenson gave us a mission to conduct more classes this year and involve more students. Program Manager Gary Cooney, who heads the Rapid Intervention Team Rescue Technician, has done just that. Gary and his “RIT Crew” will be offering almost twice as many classes this year to show the firefighters some new techniques on saving our own. The first class began in February.

Academy or ILOFSM Basic Firefighter/ NFPA Firefighter I began March 9 under the direction of Tad Schroeder, our onsite facilities manager. This will be Tad’s second Academy and due to his “Drinking the Kool-Aid” and teaching IFSI’s message to our young cadets, enrollment this spring will be at an all-time high.

Fire College begins on June 4. The foundation courses at Fire College will not change significantly, however, we have created a new course development model. Our goal was to ensure us the ability to offer the most updated and effective curriculum at Fire College each year while making Fire College the proving ground for new and untested classes. Here is the plan: If a member of our staff has an interest in developing a course, we want that person to reach out and pitch the idea to the Firefighting Program. Once we have all agreed to move forward with a new course idea, an instructor will be given the guidance to develop the curriculum to be taught at next year’s Fire College and given the opportunity to sponsor this newly developed course at Fire College. Feedback



*Sean Burke
Assistant
Director for
Firefighting
Programs*



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

continued next page

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

Sean Burke and
Tad Schroeder
continued from
page 15

from students who took the course will then be used to further refine the course and determine if the course warrants possible integration into the Cornerstone curriculum or elsewhere on IFSI's menu of classes offered. Not all courses will be approved, but they will all be considered. The Firefighting Program wants and needs new ideas for Fire College each and every year. We want to keep offering new and innovative training opportunities to our firefighters. We are accepting new ideas for classes in all aspects of training, not just structural firefighting. If it is pertinent to the fire service and makes common sense, then we want to hear about it. Thanks for your help. Redesigning the curriculum for many of the firefighting classes is an ongoing task this year. Tony Vespa and the Vehicle Machinery Operations (VMO) and the Vehicle Machinery Technicians (VMT) along with Tal Prendergast and the Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) and Fire Service Vehicle Operator (FSVO) are some of the newly updated offerings. The onsite classes of Engine Ops, Truck Ops, Advanced Breathing Specialist (smoke divers), and

Light and Fights likewise are in the process of being updated.

A new fleet of vehicles is coming to IFSI. As of this writing, a tower ladder from the Schaumburg Fire Department is on site and a 130' straight stick truck is coming from Westmont. Frankfort is donating an engine that will be delivered soon and Villa Park likewise is expected to donate an engine this summer. Firefighting Programs is also putting together a support trailer for the regional reps to use off-site. The trailer will have a compliment of ladders, saws, extra hose and pipes/nozzles and other equipment available to aid them in their mission when teaching off campus.

Over the past year, I had the privilege to travel the state and visit with Chiefs and fellow firefighters to discuss training. Listening to them, I am inspired by how much these firefighters rely on IFSI to keep them informed and fully trained on new techniques for firefighting. Our mission, as always, is to strive to keep badges off the wall. The team at IFSI will continue to encourage the firefighters of Illinois to keep "Drinking Our Kool-Aid" and fulfill that mission.

FAE/FSVO



Tal Prendergast
FAE/FSVO
Program
Manager

Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations Update

We are in the final stages of updating the Basic Aerial Apparatus Operations class. This class is being redesigned with an emphasis on what firefighters need to know to effectively operate aerial apparatus on the fireground. The goal is to give the students one to two hours of classroom instruction with the remainder of the class outside discussing set-up considerations of aerial apparatus and giving students hands-on practice maneuvering the aerial apparatus.

The main focus of the work has been in the area of tactics, strategy, and positioning of aerial apparatus. Both of these topics are significant because the tactical use of the aerial is critical to determining the proper positioning of the apparatus. Positioning the apparatus properly is key to timely rescues and the overall effectiveness of the aerial device.

Basic Aerial Apparatus Ops is also ideal for departments that do not have their own aerial apparatus, but may work with neighboring departments that do. If an aerial apparatus could be needed on the fireground, it is critical to take that into consideration and plan early for its set-up and use.

Please contact your Regional Representative to bring Basic Aerial Apparatus Ops to your department.

Upcoming class – Morton Fire Department – May 26.

Basic Pumper Operations is offered on Saturday and Sunday at this year's Fire College.

ALL NEW
9th Annual
Fire College

From the Campus: Firefighting Programs

OSFM Fire Officer State Certification Advisory Committee (SCAC) Developmental Pilot Program

Fire Officer Program

During the week of January 12-16, IFSI hosted more than 25 fire instructors, community college and state association coordinators to review proposed changes to the current Fire Officer I and II programs. The overall goal of the week was to validate the curriculum proposals for estimated delivery time and to develop meaningful practical applications for the classroom portion of the courses. The end result will be a major overhaul of the current certifications resulting in an option to complete fire officer training as a single course instead of several modules. Course work will also be able to be offered in a blended learning approach allowing the student to do course work on their own prior to attending the in-class phase.

A job task book was also reviewed and each NFPA 1021 job performance requirement was assigned a specific number of on-the-job applications which will have the candidate experience the officer job responsibilities in their own community in simulated and real incidents. The job task book will be used to fill a gap in the current provisional fire officer certification by providing specific performance based skill and knowledge checks. The fire officer

candidate's employer will be responsible for the maintenance and sign-off of this document as part of the certification requirements.

A listing of frequently asked questions (FAQ's) has been compiled by the SCAC and is available to assist the fire service in understanding the transition to the new certifications. The SCAC plans to present its final proposal to the OSFM Fire Advisory Committee for approval in spring of 2015. Once approved, pilot courses will be scheduled and you will begin to see approved agencies placing the new program onto their calendars in the fall. Fire Officer candidates who are currently enrolled and taking the existing program will be allowed to complete the existing certification program for at least a year after the new certification levels are approved.

The OSFM Fire Officer SCAC thanks the Illinois Fire Service Institute, Forest Reeder and Jim Moore for their assistance in organizing and coordinating the event. Watch for official information from the OSFM and through IFSI and other state associations and community colleges on program rollouts and transitions soon.



Lew Lake
Fire Officer
Program
Director



Upcoming classes in Champaign:

May 22
August 31
October 19
November 2

Hello, I hope the winter season was good to all of you. Responder Intervention Team Rescue Technician, formally known as RIT Under Fire, will have another busy year with seven classes scheduled. One more class is offered in the spring, three are planned in the fall, plus there will be a weekend class that is offered on back-to-back weekends. Classes fill up quickly so register soon. If classes are at maximum enrollment, please continue to sign-up because there is a waiting list in case of cancellations. Just when you thought this class could not get any better, I am happy to inform you that this class is still grant-funded to all Illinois firefighters and available at no tuition cost.



Gary Coney
Rapid
Intervention
Team Rescue
Technician
Program
Manager

From the Campus: Program Reports



John Nichols
Vehicle/
Machinery
Interim
Program
Manager

Vehicle/Machinery

As the weather warms up, so does the schedule for the Vehicle and Machinery classes. There is still room in



the classes below, so please sign up early on the IFSI website.

April 27 thru May 1, 2015 Vehicle Machinery Operations

May 18 thru May 22, 2015 Vehicle Machinery Technician

I would like to thank the curriculum department for getting the IFSI final test approved from the State Fire Marshall's office so the student only takes one test at the end of the class.

The picture at left is a new prop we received from the State Farm Insurance Company. It is a power train from a Honda Hybrid car – giving us more to train on with these new technology cars. It is a complete integrated motor-assist system with the battery pack. The prop will help students understand the workings of the hybrid car.

From Sean Burke, Assistant Director for Firefighting Programs: "I want to thank John Nichols for the excellent job he has done as the Interim Program Manager for Vehicle Machinery. His experience and dedication was essential to the program as we transitioned after Joe Drennan retired. I also happy to announce that following a competitive search process Chief Tony Vespa is our new VMO/VMT Program Manager. Tony is a long-time staff member and brings great experience, knowledge and energy to the position. The institute is looking forward to Tony's contributions to the program in the future."



Dave Newcomb
Ag Rescue
Program
Manager

Agricultural Rescue

Greetings to my brothers and sisters. In December Deputy Director Keiken and I were asked to attend a meeting at the Fire Marshal's office concerning grain rescue tubes and the training that fire departments need to use them. At the meeting were also representatives from the Illinois Department of Labor and the Association of Fire Protection Districts. The meeting focused on what fire departments need to be able to use the tubes – and how the training is available. The Department of Labor shared that they were doing audits of departments and were concerned that fire departments had equipment, yet did not meet the level of training needed to properly and effectively use the equipment. We explained that IFSI had revamped the Grain Bin classes into Awareness, Operations and Technician to meet the needs of the departments at those levels.

Along those lines: **Fire Department personnel must have at a minimum TRA, Rope Operations and Confined Space Operations to enter a Grain Bin.**

The Deputy Director and I explained how the training is available and the minimum requirements needed to host a class. The Department of Labor asked for any literature that was available. They also explained that they have an enforcement division along with a consultation division.

At a second meeting in January IFSI provided to the Department of Labor brochures that describe the classes available in the Ag Rescue Program. That information, along with information from the Department of Labor, has been assembled and is available to departments at the time of their audits. I believe these meetings were very positive and information about training is being made available from different sources.

If you have questions don't hesitate to contact me. Stay safe this spring and summer.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Investigation and Prevention is starting 2015 with new classes being offered. The Fire Inspector I and II pilot programs were offered at the end of last year and were very well received by the students. As with any new programs there will be adjustment to the class to meet the students' needs. We have Fire Inspector I classes being offered now with a class just completed at the Macomb Fire Department.

We are hoping to offer the Fire Inspector II during the late summer or early this fall. The Public Fire and Life Safety class was held in late March at IFSI.

Investigation/Prevention

Investigation has three class offered at this time, two that are offered at IFSI and one in Oswego IL. The first class at IFSI Fire and Arson Investigation started March. The second class at IFSI Fire and Arson Investigation runs June 22-26. The Oswego FD Fire and Arson Investigation class starts September 14 and runs through September 18.

Please watch our website for additional information on these and other classes. If you are interested in hosting a class please contact me.



*John High Sr.
Investigation/
Intervention
Program
Manager*

The 2015 LP season is under way. IPERC has once again generously supported the program with another year of funding so that firefighters in Illinois have access to free classroom and valuable hands-on training. "Propane has quite a remarkable safety record, due in large part to the stringent codes and regulations developed by the propane industry and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Statistics compiled by the NFPA indicate that the safest way to heat is with gas" (www.ilpga.org).

Is your department ready to handle a LP emergency in your response area?

LP Gas / Oil Well

IFSI is here to help. I am available to answer your questions and help to schedule training. Contact me at Clapp@illinois.edu or visit the IFSI web site calendar and look for LP classes in your area. If you have a training night open consider being a class host and assemble firefighters from neighboring departments.



*Mark Clapp
Propane/Oil
Well Program
Manager*

Icy roads, snow covered ground, temperatures below freezing. It's a pretty common way to describe winter in Illinois. It keeps most of us thinking about hot chocolate and unique ways to keep our fingers warm. While I'm sure you are starting to think about spring and the end to this seemingly endless winter, have you thought at all about spring wildfire season?

Wildfires in Illinois are common in the spring as fields of winter killed grasses emerge from the snow. The National Interagency Fire Center in Boise released their Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for Spring 2015. It suggests that this spring could be an interesting one. Illinois and much of the Midwest have above normal potential for significant wildland fires. Are you ready? This is a great time of year

Wildland

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

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

Stay safe and always remember to fight fire aggressively having provided for safety first.



*Tom Richter
Wildland
Program
Manager*

From the Campus: Program Reports



*Rich Valenta
E-Learning
Program
Director*

Online Classes

Much has happened in eLearning since the fall newsletter.

First in response to the Ebola Virus threat, IFSI rolled out an Ebola Awareness online course. While the immediate Ebola threat seems to have passed, the course provides instruction for emergency responders dealing with infectious diseases. Yes Ebola protocol is emphasized, but the same protocols can be used when dealing with any infectious disease. It is well worth your time to complete this self-directed course.

As IFSI moves to provide more certification courses for those firefighters who cannot attend a one- or two-week

long course, we are now offering two new Online Blended courses. These courses flip the traditional classroom and deliver the classroom content online. Students then attend either a one- day long Saturday, or one weekend practical session, depending on the class.

Fire Apparatus Engineer (FAE) is the first of the two. FAE students participate in a 13-week long course with practical sessions on a Saturday of week four, eight, and thirteen. The second offering is Rope Rescue Operations. This course is delivered in an eight-week format with a practical weekend at the end of week eight. Both of these courses cover the same material as the traditions courses. This delivery format allows student to work training into their busy personal and work schedules.

Soon we will add Fire Instructor I in the blended format. Look to the IFSI week site for further information on schedule and registration information.

We hope you take advantage of the new training opportunities. IFSI is committed to finding ways to offer training to the firefighters that meet their schedules and needs.

**Upcoming Instructor I blended learning class.
Start online May 4 and finish with your practicals
at Fire College, June 4-5.**



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

Courage to be Safe/ National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Through delivery of Courage to be Safe (CTBS) and Leadership, Accountability, Culture and Knowledge (LACK), IFSI has reached almost 800 firefighters in Illinois and delivered important safety information. This adds to the more than 1,000 firefighters/fire officers that were engaged in 2013. When delivering these, and all IFSI programs, it important to promote additional online programs offered through the Fire Hero Learning Network (FHLN) – the training arm of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF). One of the many programs offered through FHLN help us when a fellow firefighter is in crisis. **Stress First Aid for Fire and EMS Personnel (SFA)** is a set of supportive actions designed to

help emergency responders assist each other in reducing the negative impacts of stress. SFA was designed specifically to support firefighters, EMS, and rescue personnel. This program teaches SFA at the awareness level, focusing on:

- Understanding stress
- Recognizing how stress manifests in thoughts, words, and actions
- Delivering the “Seven C’s” of Stress First Aid (Check, Coordinate, Cover, Calm, Connect, Competence, Confidence) to each other

This method of assisting a co-worker undergoing stress is practical, flexible, and can be tailored to the specific need. This important program is aimed at achieving Firefighter Life Safety Initiative #13, which states:

“Firefighters and their families should have access to counseling and psychological support.”

From the Campus: Program Reports

The spring and summer of 2015 will bring some exciting new research activities to the IFSI campus. We have been awarded a DHS Fire Prevention & Safety grant to study Cardiovascular and Carcinogenic Risks in Modern Firefighting. Joining us in this study are partners from Underwriters Laboratories' Firefighter Safety Research Institute and the National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health's (NIOSH) Health Hazard Evaluation Program. In this study, we will combine expertise from across the country to provide the first rigorous scientific study of acute physiological disruptions, including thermal and cardiac strain, and exposure to products of combustion, in response to working in a realistic modern fire environment.

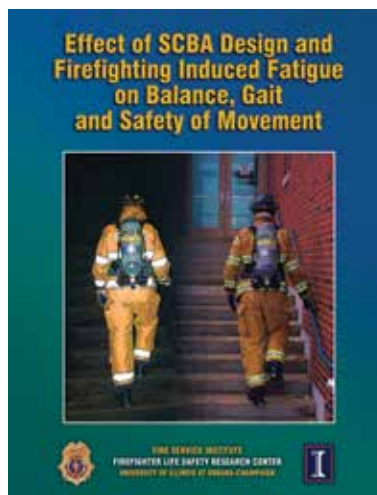
We will also document the time course of recovery from firefighting work, providing the most relevant data to inform the national discussion on

Research

establishing a timeline for returning a firefighter to service after a fire. You will see some changes on the fireground with the construction of a new training prop patterned after the full-scale ranch style structure that UL has studied in their Northbrook lab for the past several years. We will be building up to data collection this summer, starting shortly after Fire College and look forward to reporting this data to the Fire Service across the country in 2016.



Gavin Horn, PhD
Research
Department
Director



SCBA report now available online. The complete report can found on the IFSI research page for download.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Curriculum and Testing



Kurt Glosser
Curriculum and
Testing
Department
Director

National Certification

IFSI's involvement in the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications (Pro Board) has brought an era of self-improvement, challenging us to raise the bar by which we measure ourselves. Many Program Managers have spent countless hours networking and corresponding with other accredited agencies, reviewing best practices, and learning how to best evaluate our students against the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards.

In a profession, certification provides individuals with a sense of accomplishment. Nationally-certified fire-

In January, IFSI received their Pro Board reaccreditation, congratulations to all involved!

fighters have credibility that they have proven their competence. Firefighters that have made the investment to become certified have been proud to inform their communities that they measure up to national standards. Those that have been called upon in the line of duty to perform the tested Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) walk away with a sense of fulfillment, knowing they were prepared.

What if you pursued National Certification or even encouraged the next generation in your department to attain certification? I wonder how that might

impact our fire service. Is that a goal too lofty? I don't think so considering we have nationally-certified dog groomers. It doesn't seem a stretch that as a society we would expect that of our emergency responders. What if it was even, dare I say, required? The Illinois Board of Cosmetology requires individuals who wish to cut hair, give a massage (become a massage therapist) or those that want to give a manicure (become nail technicians) to pass an exam before a beauty practitioner certification is issued. Crazy enough, cosmetologists are even *required* to complete 14 hours of continuing education every two years to renew their license. When these professionals hang their certificate on the wall the public is assured that they have been tested to a standard.

I am not sure how you would compare those jobs with the fire service's high-risk work environment, but I would propose that if the fire service wishes to continue to exceed the expectations of those we serve we must strongly consider achieving national certification.

Note: Also, in January, IFSI submitted their application to the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). Our application will be reviewed by the Certificate Assembly in 2015. This is another example how your State Fire Academy continues to strive for excellence and desires to give the firefighters and fire departments of Illinois the most from their training and education.



There is now a section on the website under the Course Information tab with Curriculum and Testing specific information. There are three sections that will likely grow over time.

Questions and Answers – Answers common questions students ask and has links to numerous documents.

Value of IFSI classes – Provides information on OSFM and National Certification, EMS CEUs, college credit, as well as NFA and FEMA course approvals.

About Testing – ADA accommodation questions.

From the Campus: Program Reports

Retesting with the new IFSI Regional Test Sites

IFSI is excited to introduce a network of Regional Testing Sites. Currently, there are ten active sites throughout the state that provide testing on the last Wednesday and Thursday evening of each month beginning at 6pm. Students needing to schedule a retest can do so via the new online Exam Request system. This system will allow students to request retests (and also first-time exam requests for online courses). Scheduling for the current month can be done by the 15th of that month. Thereafter, it is necessary to schedule for the following month.

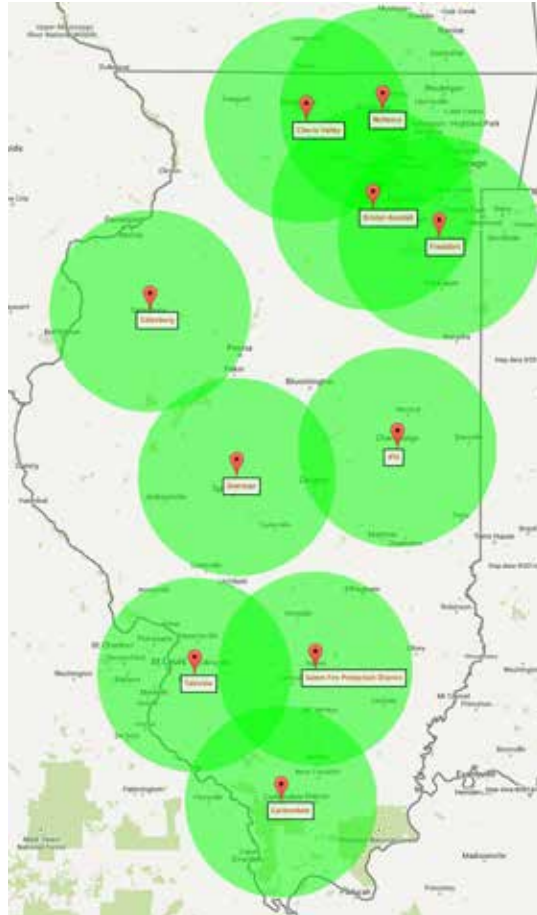
Students may access this system by going in to the Resource Center, going into the Student Central menu, and click on the "Exam Request" button. The student will be presented with a screen that provides exam status of any requests made and a link for making a new request. Once on the new request page, the student will be asked to verify all contact information, to select the exam for retest (based on eligibility list), and to select a testing site. Once submitted, the student will receive notifications regarding request approval and any other relevant request updates.

Upon being confirmed for an exam administration, the student will receive an Individual Feedback Form via email that is a personalized report itemizing the exam material that was missed, along with additional information to assist with the retest preparation. Our goal is

to encourage students to achieve the knowledge base necessary, and to have the tools they need to do so. We provide study tips and a document explaining how to interpret the feedback form. If a student has any additional questions, the Curriculum & Testing office is available Monday through Friday and can provide further assistance.



*Katrina Mann
Testing and Support Specialist
Curriculum and Testing Department*



	Wednesday	Thursday
May	5/27	5/28
June	6/24	5/25
July	7/29	7/30
August	8/26	8/27
September	9/30	10/1
October	10/28	10/29
November/December	12/2	12/3

Library Updates & Highlights



Dr. Lian Ruan
Head Librarian

The IFSI Library continued its successful operations during Winter Fire School with extended hours and by providing reference and general assistance to firefighters. The library was also the venue for the sale of IFSI clothing and other products sold. Winter Fire School is an excellent opportunity for the library to reach out to Illinois firefighters who might not normally get a chance to see the collection in person and to provide an orientation to library services offered, including statewide interlibrary loan services.



The IFSI Library has created six subject guides to help Illinois first responders locate and access information concerning fire service history, agricultural emergencies, major American fires, ethanol as related to the fire service, hazardous materials, and natural disasters response.

Links to these subject guides are available at the IFSI Library main webpage at <https://www.fsi.illinois.edu/content/library/> or through the IFSI Library's libguide webpage at the UIUC Library at <http://uiuc.libguides.com/profile.php?uid=63783>

All of the subject guides provide information on using the IFSI Library's online catalog and list information resources on the particular topic that are available at the IFSI library. The topics include:

- Agricultural Emergencies**
- Ethanol and the Fire Service**
- Hazmat Resources**
- History of the U.S. Fire Service**
- Major American Fires**
- Natural Disasters: Planning & Recovery**

You may contact IFSI librarians at fsi-library@illinois.edu or by calling (217) 333-8925 with questions related to these subject guides or any other of your information needs.

The IFSI Library and Archives are extremely grateful to be the recipient of a number of generous donations this fall/winter. Between the months of November and January, the IFSI Library received over 600 donations from IFSI staff, the general public, and fire departments, including over 500 items from the Champaign Fire Department.

Lian Ruan and David Ehrenhart delivered a presentation titled: "A Commitment to Supporting Firefighters' Dynamic Information Needs: Experience-Based Knowledge Management Services at the Illinois State Fire Academy Library" at Library Research Seminar VI hosted jointly by the University of Illinois Graduate School of Library and Information Science, the University Library, and the Library Research Round Table of the ALA.

Lian Ruan's essay for the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), titled "Aiming High: ACRL in the 60s," was published in the issue of *CRL News* in December 2014.



IFSI Library is one of 30 finalists for the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service

In February, the Institute of Museum and Library Services announced that the IFSI Library is among the 30 finalists for the 2015 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor given to museums and libraries for service to the community.

IFSI International Programs

During November a seven-member delegation from Tsinghua University led by Professor Hongyong Yuan visited the Illinois Fire Service Institute and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The presentations by Director Mortenson on IFSI training and Dr. Horn on research were well-received. The delegation also visited the Chicago Fire Department.

Mortenson and Ruan were invited to attend *Fire Asia 2015* which was held in February at the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre. The conference was jointly organized by the Institution of Fire Engineers (Hong Kong Branch), the Ambulance Service Institute (Hong Kong Branch), the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Building Services Division), the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (Fire Division) and the China Hong Kong Fire Protection Association with the full support of the Hong Kong Fire Services Department. Director Mortenson made a presentation, titled "Fire Service Training Programs in the 21st Century of the US".

The book proposal Ruan (co-authors with Director Qiang Zhu, Peking University, Professor Ying Ye, Nanjing University) entitled "*Academic Library Development and Administration in China*," was accepted by IGI Global, International Publisher of Progressive Academic Research. Seventeen chapters will be written by the Chinese Librarians Summer Program participants and other researchers in China. Ruan will submit Chapter 16 on "The Trends of Chinese-American Library Relations."

In spring 2015, IFSI received five visiting scholars from the following organizations: Jiangsu University, Shanxi University, Northeast Agricultural University, Shenyang Fire Research Institute, and Dalian Maritime University. All made donations to the China Endowment Fund, administered by the UI Foundation.



*Dr. Lian Ruan
International
Programs
Director*



Building Corporate Relations and Developing New Partnerships



*Dennis Spice
Senior Advisor
Corporate
Relations and
Development*



On October 10, 2014, Chris Kernanhan, The Andersons Operation Manager, received a thank you award from Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager, for all his efforts in support of the Institute's Ag Rescue Training Program. Chris is being transferred to Iowa later this year. Chris is shown receiving the award from Dave at The Andersons facility in Champaign.



On October 17, 2014, shown at the award presentation at the Midland States Bank located in Champaign, Illinois are: (L to R) Pam Young, Banking Center Manager; Becky Von Holten, Market President; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; and, Brice Hutchcraft, Commercial Relationship Manager.



On October 28, 2014, at the Institute in Champaign, Illinois, The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation based in Lake Forest, Illinois donated \$10,000 to the IFSI Fund in support of the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute's mission to help firefighters do their work through training, education, information and research. Shown at the presentation of the check from The Grainger Foundation are: (L to R) front row: Tiffany Shenck, Grainger Account Manager; Brian Loyd, Grainger Market Manager; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development. backrow: Danielle Seider, Grainger Operational Manager; Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Dave Weisiger, Grainger Onsite Services Coordinator; and, Kim White, IFSI Grant Administrator.



On November 6, 2014, Task Force Tips delivered equipment that was donated to the Institute by the company. It will be used in training first responders throughout the State of Illinois, the United States and around the world. Shown receiving the donation in the IFSI warehouse (L to R) Rod Carringer, Chief Marketing Officer, TFT; Jim Keiken, Deputy Director, IFSI; and, Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI.



On December 3, 2014, the Vermilion County Farm Bureau received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown at the award presentation in the Vermilion County Farm Bureau office located in Danville, Illinois are: (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Kelli Lyons, Member of Vermilion County Farm Bureau Young Leaders; Kerry Wienke, Executive Director, Vermilion County Farm Bureau; and, Dennis Spice IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On December 3, 2014, Miles Young received a 2014 Appreciation Award for his support of the Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown on the family farm outside of Downs, Illinois are: Mr. and Mrs. Young with their grandchildren along with Mr. Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager.



On December 3, 2014, Sterling Wealth Management received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Program.

Shown at the award presentation in Sterling Wealth Management's new Champaign office are: (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Sharon Allen, President, Sterling Wealth Management; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On December 4, 2014, the Humboldt Fire Department received a 2014 Appreciation Award for donating a trailer to the Institute which can be used to provide first responder training across the State of Illinois. Shown at the award presentation in front of the Humboldt Fire Department are: (L to R) Mark Berg, IFSI Director of Transportation Operations; John McMillan, Captain; Curt Niemeyer, Trustee; Fred Hood, Trustee; and, Bill Cobb Fire Chief.



On December 5, 2014, The Andersons received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Program at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the The Andersons Champaign facility are: (L to R) Todd Garber, new Operations Manager of The Andersons Champaign facility; Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; and Chris Kernanhan, former Operations Manager at The Andersons Champaign facility.



On December 9, 2014, ABC Sanitary received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of Institute. Shown at the award presentation in ABC Sanitary's Champaign office are: Steve Smith, Owner and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On December 8, 2014, BankChampaign received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown receiving the award at the BankChampaign office is: (L to R) Mark Ballard, President, BankChampaign; Amie Smith, Vice President, and; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On December 12, 2014, TriPower Inc. Towing & Recovery received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in front of the TriPower office in Effingham, Illinois are: (L to R) Mike Depoister, President; John Nichols, IFSI Interim Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager; and, Kelly Robinson, Manager.



On December 9, 2014 Republic Services received a 2014 Appreciation Award for the support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Republic Services office located in Urbana, Illinois are: Damon Fox, Sale Representative and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On December 5, 2014, Farm Credit Illinois received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Program at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Farm Credit Illinois office located in Mahomet, Illinois are: (L to R) Tom Tracy, President and CEO of Farm Credit Illinois and Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Training Program Manager.



On December 11, 2014, Stan's Sportsworld received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown at the award presentation in Stan's Sportsworld Champaign office are: Cam Wallace, Owner and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On December 11, 2014 Martin One Source received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Martin One Source Champaign office are: (L to R) Greg Gonda, Vice President Sales; Chuck Martin, Founder and CEO; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; and, Dave Moravec, President.



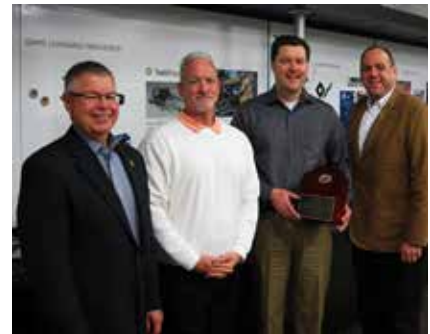
On December 12, 2014, Tatman's Towing received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown receiving the award at Tatman's Urbana facility are: Jim Hampton, Owner and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On December 12, 2014, Comfort Suites Urbana received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the lobby of the Comfort Suites Urbana are: Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director and Adam Friedrich, General Manager.



On December 16, 2014, Scott Safety received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Scott Safety's Monroe, NC headquarters are: (L to R) Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Trent Smith, Scott Safety, Vice President, Americas; Sales; Jeff Emery, Scott Safety Director, Global Marketing; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On December 17, 2014, Hurst Jaws of Life® received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continuous support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Hurst headquarters located in Shelby, NC are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Kevin Halstead, Hurst Jaws of Life® Vice President of Sales; Chris Jaques, Hurst Jaws of Life® General Manager; and, Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director.



On December 19, 2014, e-Fire Asia Co. Ltd received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Learning Resource and Research Center Auditorium located at the Institute in Champaign are: Allen Yang, President and Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI.



On December 19, 2014, Commerce Bank received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Commerce Bank lobby located in Champaign, Illinois are: Brian Egeberg, President, Champaign Market, and Royal Mortenson Director, IFSI.



On January 8, 2015, AEC/Holmatro received an Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute this past year. AEC has also supplied Res-Q-Jack equipment and Ferrara apparatus to IFSI for use during training. Shown at the award presentation in AEC's Springfield, Illinois office are: (L to R) John Archer, President, AEC; John Nichols, IFSI Interim Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager; Mark Nixon, Fire Apparatus Sales Manager, AEC; and, Tom Oller, Sales Representative, AEC.



On January 6, 2015, Busey Bank received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown at the award presentation in Busey's Champaign office are: (L to R) Stephanie Elmer, Vice President, Community Relations Coordinator, Busey Bank; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development and Kevan Melchiorre, Vice President, Private Wealth Advisor, Busey Bank.



On January 16, 2015, Brock Grain Systems received a 2014 Titanium Level Appreciation Award for their 5 continuous years supporting the Ag Rescue Training Program at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Brock's Milford, Indiana headquarters are: (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Darren Zink, Brock Strategic Accounts Manager; and Roger Hollinger, Brock Customer Service Manager.



On December 30, 2014, PRO Ambulance received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown at the award presentation in the PRO Ambulance office in Champaign are: Timothy Compton, Regional Director/ Paramedic Presence PRO Ambulance/ Presence Regional EMS and Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director.



On January 13, 2015, Pekin Insurance received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute and Firefighter Life Safety Research. Shown at the award presentation at Pekin's headquarters in Pekin, Illinois are: (L to R) Dr. Gavin Horn, IFSI Research Director; Todd Clark, Senior VP & COO-Property Casualty, Pekin Insurance; and, Scott Martin, President, Pekin Insurance.

On January 21, 2015, Global Emergency Products and Pierce received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Global Emergency Products Aurora, Illinois office are: (L to R) Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Mike Mikooka, President & CEO Global Emergency Products; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.

On January 21, 2015, WS Darley received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation at Darley's headquarters in Itasca, Illinois are: Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Jim Darley, WS Darley National Sales Manager, Fire Pump Division.



On December 29, 2014, California Casualty received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Learning Resource and Research Center Auditorium located at the State Fire Academy are: (L to R) Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Katie Dunn, Field Marketing Manager, California Casualty; and Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director.



On January 21, 2015, Nicor Gas, An AGL Resource Company, received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Nicor Gas's Naperville, Illinois headquarters are: (L to R) Margi Schiemann, Director, Infrastructure Programs and Support, Nicor Gas; Pat Whitehead, Vice President, Business Support, Nicor Gas; Beth Reese, President, Nicor Gas; Royal Mortenson, Director, IFSI; and, Becky Meggesin, Vice President/Labor Relations, Nicor Gas.





On December 19, 2015, Dukane Precast, Inc. received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown at the award presentation in Dukane's Naperville, IL office are: (L to R) Don Dardis, President, Dukane; Jim Keiken, Deputy Director, IFSI; Scott Wehrli, Secretary-Treasurer, Partner, Dukane; and Jim Perkovich, Structural Collapse Instructor, IFSI.



On January 23, 2015, EJ Equipment received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in EJ Equipment's Manteno office are: (L to R) Brock Herion, IFSI Trench Rescue Program Manager; Ed LeSage, Owner, EJ Equipment; and, Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On January 23, 2015, ASIP Local 150 received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the lobby of ASIP Local 150's headquarters located in Wilmington, Illinois are: (L to R) Sean Poyner, ASIP Local 150 Instructor; Brock Herion, IFSI Trench Rescue Program Manager; Daniel Reda, ASIP Local 150 Assistant Coordinator, Certification Director, Operating Engineer Certification Program; Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; and, John (Mac) McCastland, IFSI Associate Director.



On January 23, 2015, the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation the Illinois Chapter meeting in Mokena, Illinois are: (L to R) Thomas Wegner, Chapter President and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On January 22, 2015, Chicago Firefighters Local 2 received a 2014 Appreciation Award for the support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation at the Local 2 office in Chicago are: (L to R) John (Mac) McCastland, IFSI Associate Director; Gil Clark, Hazmat Coordinator, Local 2; Richard Stack, IFSI Chicago Metro Regional Representative; Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director; Tom Ryan, President, Local 2; Pat Cleary, Vice President, Local 2; and, Mike O'Neill, Secretary-Treasurer, Local 2.



On January 22, 2015, Paratech received a 2014 Appreciation Award for 5 years of continuous support to the Institute. Shown at the award presentation on the shop floor of Partech's Frankfort, Illinois headquarters are: (L to R) Royal Mortenson, IFSI Director and Kenneth Nielsen, Partech Chief Operating Officer.



On January 23, 2015, Motorola Solutions received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the auditorium of the Learning Resource and Research Center at the Institute are: Matthew Blakely, Director of Motorola Solutions Foundation and Royal Mortenson, Director of IFSI.



On January 27, 2015, AMKUS received a 2014 Appreciation Award for 8 years of continuous support to the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in AMKUS Downers Grove headquarters are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director Corporate Relations and Development; Judy Weigand, AMKUS Vice President; and, John Nichols, IFSI Interim Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager.



On January 27, 2015, Air One Equipment received a 2014 Appreciation award for five continuous years of support to the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Air One's South Elgin office surrounded by the Sales Team are: (L to R) John Nichols, IFSI Interim Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager; David Frey, Vice President, Air One; Sandra Frey, President, Air One; and Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On January 28, 2015, EMC Fire and Genesis received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their 8 continuous years of support to the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in EMC's Channahon, Illinois facility are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Own Black, EMC Vice President; Teresa Simon, Owner, EMC; and, John Nichols, IFSI Interim Director Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager.



On January 28, 2015, Ajax Rescue Tools received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Ajax's Franklin Park, Illinois office are: (L to R) John Nichols, IFSI Interim Vehicle/Machinery Program Manager; Bill Benedict, Ajax Sales and Product Manager; Bob Benedict, Ajax President/CEO; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On January 30, 2015, Coreslab Structures Indianapolis received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown at the award presentation in Coreslab's Indianapolis office are: Matt Ballain, Vice President/General Manager Coreslab Structures Indianapolis and Jim Keiken, Deputy Director IFSI.



On February 3, 2015, Carle Arrow Ambulance received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Carle Arrow Ambulance Champaign office are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Larry Sapp, Director, Arrow Ambulance; John Sollars, Operations Manager, Arrow Ambulance; and, Brian Brauer, Associate Director, IFSI.



On February 9, 2015, Alexis Fire Equipment Company received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Alexis' headquarters located in Alexis, Illinois are: (L to R) Jeff Morris, President, Alexis and Jim Keiken, Deputy Director, IFSI.



On February 6, 2015, Westmont Fire Department received a 2014 Appreciation Award for donating a fire truck to the Institute. Shown at the award presentation are: (L to R) Phil Demik, IFSI Truck Program Manager; Chief David Weiss, Westmont Fire Department; and, Sean Burke, IFSI Assistant Director, Firefighting.



On January 12, 2015, Honeywell Life Safety received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in System Sensor's conference room (a Honeywell company) located in St. Charles, Illinois are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Isaac Papier, Vice President, Industry Relations at Honeywell Life Safety, and; Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On February 10, 2015, Task Force Tips (TFT) received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation on the shop floor at Task Force Tips' headquarters located in Valparaiso, Indiana with the TFT tool room employees looking on are: (L to R) Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development; Brian Brauer, IFSI Associate Director; Larry Shepard, Task Force Tips Tool Room Supervisor; Sean Burke, IFSI Assistant Director, Firefighting; and, Bill Hindle, Task Force Tips Machinist.



On February 16, 2015, KC Supply Co. Inc. received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown at the award presentation in KC Supply's booth at the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Annual Convention and Trade Show in Springfield, Illinois are: (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager and Jeff Lavery, President, KC Supply



On February 16, 2015, the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS) received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute's Ag Rescue Training Program. Shown at the award presentation in the Brock Grain System's booth at the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois Annual Convention and Trade Show in Springfield, Illinois are: (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; Debra Good, Brock Grain System District Sales Manager and member of GEAP Gateway Chapter; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On February 17, 2015, Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. (MES) received a 2014 Appreciation Award for support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Auditorium of the Learning Resource and Research Center at the Institute in Champaign, IL are: (L to R) Kevin Byrd, Regional Vice President, MES; Brian Brauer, Associate Director, IFSI; and, Trent Short, Sales Representative, MES.



On February 18, 2015, Bryant Industries received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continuous support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Bryant's Danville, Illinois office are: (L to R) Sean Burke, IFSI Assistant Director, Firefighting; Mike Bryant, CEO, Bryant Industries; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On February 20, 2015, the Illinois Farm Bureau received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Fund at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Farm Bureau office located in Bloomington, Illinois are: (L to R) Peggy Romba, Program Manager, Illinois Farm Bureau; and, Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager.



On February 20, 2015, GROWMARK received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Fund at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the GROWMARK office located in Bloomington, Illinois are: (L to R) Kevin Frye, Safety Services Manager, Growmark; and, Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager.



On February 20, 2015, Country Financial received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Ag Rescue Training Fund at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Country Financial office located in Bloomington, Illinois are: (L to R) Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; and, Eric Vanasdale, Senior Loss Control Representative, Country Insurance & Financial Services.



On February 20, 2015, The Illinois Pork Producers Association received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Ag Rescue Training Fund at the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Country Financial office located in Springfield, Illinois are: (L to R) Tim Maiers, Interim Director, Illinois Pork Producers Association; Dave Newcomb, IFSI Ag Rescue Program Manager; and, Mike Borgic, Director of Membership & Outreach, Illinois Pork Producers Association.



On February 23, 2015, Altom Transport, Inc. received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the training at the Institute. Shown at the Altom award presentation in their Chicago terminal are: (L to R) Robert Sleconich, Director, Risk Management, Altom; Dan Dziubczynski, Safety & Compliance Manager, Altom; Jim Keiken, Deputy Director, IFSI; Tom Warren, Executive Vice President, Altom; and, Mike Crawford, Director HSE, Altom.



On February 23, 2015, The Illinois Fire Store received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the Illinois Fire Store headquarters located in Amboy, Illinois are: (L to R) Meg Fleming, Administrative Assistant; Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director; Nick Dinges, CEO, Illinois Fire Store; Bethany O'Connell, Sales; Jeff Bryan, President, Illinois Fire Store; Rick Madsen, Sales; Brad Aude, Sales; and, Tracy Fleming, Sales.



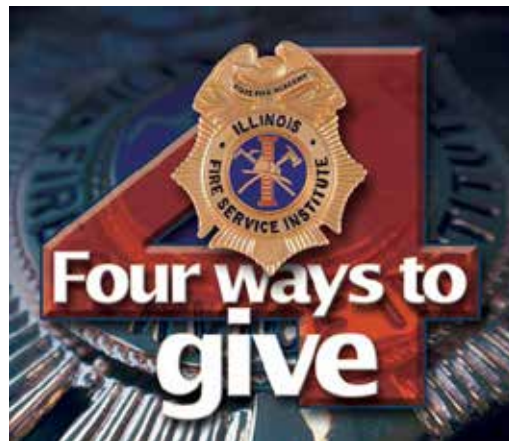
On February 27, 2015, Mitsubishi Motors North America received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in the lobby of Mitsubishi's manufacturing facility located in Normal, Illinois are: (L to R) John Nichols, IFSI Vehicle/Machinery Interim Program Manager; Jerry Berwanger, Chief Operating Officer, Mitsubishi Motors North America; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



On February 25, 2015, Husqvarna received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their support for their support of the Institute this past year. Shown at the award presentation in the Learning Resource and Research Center Auditorium located at the Institute are: (L to R) Sean Burke, IFSI Assistant Director, Firefighting; Kevin Fisher, Regional Manager, Midwest Construction Products, Husqvarna; Dave York, Owner, Illini Contractors Supply; Rick Dorsey, District Manager, Construction Products, Husqvarna; and Jim Keiken, IFSI Deputy Director.



On March 4, 2015, Reynold's Towing received a 2014 Appreciation Award for their continued support of the Institute. Shown at the award presentation in Reynold's Urbana office are: (L to R) Susan Jepsen, Reynold's Chief Financial Officer; Greg Reynolds, President; and, Dennis Spice, IFSI Director of Corporate Relations and Development.



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

You can view a video from IFSI Director Mortenson here:

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

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS TRAINING PROGRAM (SOTP)

John (Mac) McCastland, *Program Director*
708/906-6927
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HazMat Program Manager
Chris Downey
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Rope Rescue Program Manager
Mike Woodard
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Structural Collapse Program Manager
Mike McCastland
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Trench Rescue Program Manager
Brock Herion
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Confined Space Program Manager
Ryan Reynolds
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rreynlds@illinois.edu

IFSI Instructors of the Month

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



Randy Schlichter
October 2014



John Leonard
January 2015



Joe Drennan
February 2015



Mark your calendar for June 17-20, 2015, for the next Explorer-Cadet hands-on fire training.

ALL NEW 91st Annual Fire College

JUNE 4-7 ● CHAMPAIGN IL

A good variety of classes to choose from:

Firefighting track

Entry Level and Recruit Firefighting
Essentials of Fire Attack
Combatting Single-Family Dwelling Fires
First-In Officer
Basic Truck Company Operations
Fire Dynamics and Stream Application
Basic Pumper Operations
Fireman, Fire Engine, Firehouse
Fatal Fire Investigation for Public Fire Investigators
Fire Inspection for the Company Officer
Firefighting on the Rails
Common Sense Building Construction for the Firefighter

Leadership Development and Decision Making

Leadership
Leadership and Decision Making

Guest Presenter – Dr. Richard Gasaway

Training for Failure
Mental Management of Emergencies

Outside the Flames

Basic Auto Extrication
Advanced Auto Extrication
Large Animal Rescue Awareness

EMS

Tactical Medic
Technical Rescue Awareness Medic



Guest Presenter – Dr. Richard Gasaway

***Training for Failure
Mental Management of Emergencies***

All the way from St. Paul, Minnesota – Dr. Richard Gasaway, best-selling author and retired chief, delivers two powerful programs on the mental challenges experienced by firefighters and why training

is critical to successful careers “Mental Management of Emergencies” and “Training for Failure” are each repeated during Fire College.



**Special Friday Night Speaker
Brigadier General Julian**

D. Alford will deliver a presentation on “Leadership: One Marine’s Perspective.” Sponsored in partnership with Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, this presentation follows in the efforts to build greater and broader leadership skills in the fire service. A portion of the proceeds from this class will go to support scholarships.



JUNE 17-20 ● CHAMPAIGN IL

Introduction to Fundamentals: This program introduces students to the fire service experience at the basic level. It is an introduction to water supply, hose loads, advancement of attack lines, forcible entry, hand tools and usage, vertical and horizontal ventilation, search and rescue, pumper operations, ropes and knots, and auto extrication. This program will include one live fire training station and at least one station that will use theatrical smoke to enhance the training experience.

Advanced Skills Program: This track provides a more complex training experience than that of the fundamentals program. This track covers many of the areas listed in the fundamentals program but adds the challenge of decision-making and multi-task assignments under challenging live fire conditions. In addition, students will get the opportunity to operate commonly used rescue tools for auto extrications and utilize ropes and knots in technical rescue situations.

Cadet Officer Program: This program tasks the experienced cadet with the demanding responsibility of a fire officer on the fire ground. Students will be placed in a fast-paced learning environment that will require them to lead other cadets into the ever-changing situations on the fire ground during a coordinated fire attack.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 3 - last day to register with lodging option

June 4 - first email confirmation sent to advisor

June 13 - last email confirmation sent

Conference costs

Due to decreased funding from the state of Illinois, we must charge a nominal fee for training in 2015.

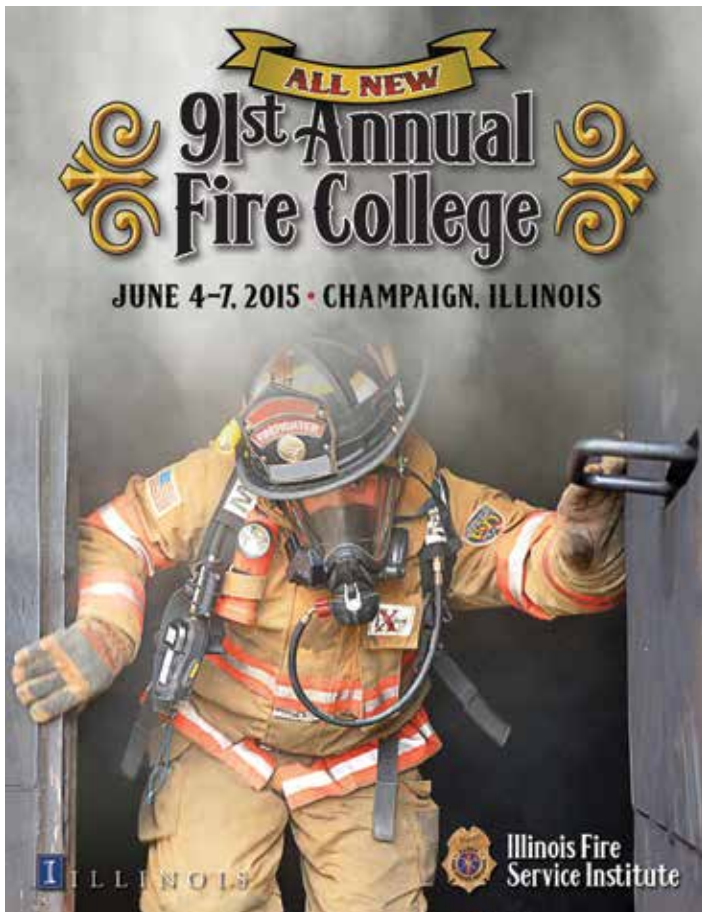
Fee to attend:

Youth and Adult Supervisors \$405
(includes lodging and dorm meals)

Youth and Adult Supervisors \$325
(lodging and meals on your own)



Illinois Fire Service Institute
11 Gerty Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



Important Fire College Dates

- May 14** Last day for early registration fee.
- May 15** A second confirmation emailed.
- May 22** Last day to cancel, or fees will be payable.
- May 29** Last day to advance register.
- May 30** A final email confirmation will be sent out. This email will include information on parking.
- June 4-7** On-site registration and check-in.