

University of Delaware Emergency Care Unit



## Special Interest Articles

New Members

Fun at NCEMSF  
Conference

Trial Bags

## Congratulations New Members!

By: Meghan Connor

UDECU is very proud to present its spring 2008 probie class! The new members attended their first meeting this month and were issued their probie number. They also received their free UDECU t-shirts and were given their keys to the solar house. They seem like a great group who are really enthusiastic and eager to learn. The new members include:

Jesse Marsh, a sophomore

leadership major from Delaware.

Zack Gaskill, a sophomore Biology major from Delaware.

Christine Gaydos a freshman Music Education major from New Jersey.

Amanda Vent, a sophomore Chemistry major from Delaware.

Justin Field, a freshman biology major from Delaware.

Sarah Nash a sophomore nursing major from Maryland.

Jennifer Silver, a sophomore biology major from Maryland.

Congratulations new members! We are very glad to have you in UDECU!

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## NCEMSF a success!

By: Steven Dudley

From February 29th (Dmitry's 5th birthday) to March 2nd, 34 members of UDECU attended the NCEMSF conference held in King of Prussia Pennsylvania. This was the largest group UDECU has brought to a conference in our 32 year history. UDECU boasted the highest attendance out of the 90 schools (take that Penn State) and 750 students whom attended.

Most of the membership arrived at the Crown Plaza hotel Friday night. The Medtronic Skills competition was held that night, and UDECU sent its team of Charles Mitchell,

Kristen Fantel, Lauren Rowe, and Jeff Sands to the challenge. UDECU put on a strong showing, finishing 9th overall. Much of the rest of the night was spent in various hotel rooms (highlighted - in this author's opinion - by a Mark Ivey/Steve Dudley wrestling match in room 340). Saturday morning came very early for most members, who slowly wandered to the hotel lobby for bagels, muffins, and lots of water. The 8AM session, as is tradition, consisted of several classes taught by college students. Some of the rest of the day's classes included: Hemostatic Resuscitation

taught by a trauma surgeon who worked in Iraq, Trauma Crash Course: Learning from Famous Fatalities, and a general session on Air Medical Services. For dinner, members were able to walk to the King of Prussia mall.

Once members returned to the hotel, the fun began again. Several members took a bus trip to local bars, while the others spent time in the hotel rooms. The highlight of this night was when former UDECU member and current Director-at-Large brought George Koenig, the President of NCEMSF around to party in some of UDECU's rooms.

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## NCEMSF Cont...

Quite a scare was had when the girls of room 342 found themselves locked out of their room.

Coincidentally, it was determined that 12 EMTs all "working together" could not get the room open. Finally, hotel security was called and the problem was solved.

Sunday was another early morning of food and water. The day's classes were highlighted by a review of Virginia Tech Rescue Squad's response to the shooting tragedy on campus. Their squad was very prepared for this emergency, and stated that one of the hardest

parts of organization was coordinating efforts with EMS, fire, and especially police. Hopefully nothing like this ever happens at the University of Delaware, or anywhere for that matter, but if it does, UDECU will be able to function as appropriately and efficiently as VTRS did.

Occurring simultaneously with the Sunday classes was the Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) course.

Chris Gale, Andrew Dubina, and Charles Mitchell were the UDECU members in attendance.

The course was held for all healthcare providers, including Medics, nurses,

and doctors. The course is a national certification, much like PHTLS (now ITLS), and went in to great detail about kinematics of trauma, and the physiological effects of biological agents. Overall, the course gave a different, more complete perspective on disaster preparation and has Chris, Andrew, and Charles ready to face those challenges should they arise.

The weekend was a great success. Everyone enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. It was a weekend full of UDECU bonding and emergency medicine. We can't wait for next year's conference, wherever it may be held (hope for Florida!).

## Trial Bags for UD-1

By: Meghan Connor

The techs and drivers, as well as the e-board have decided to try out a new bag system for UD-1. Many ambulance companies, including Wilmington, have two different bags, one for medical and one for trauma. UD-1 has decided to try this system. The bag that is on the bottom of the cabinet that held the secondary bag before now holds the trauma bag. The trauma bag holds equipment that is more important to bring with us on trauma calls. There is a collar included in this bag an oxygen bottle as well as a pulse ox and mostly

medical supplies. The medical bag holds supplies that would be useful on a medical call. There is a collar in this bag but there are less dressings and things that would probably not be as useful on a medical call, as well as an oxygen bottle, oral glucose, and again a pulse ox as well as other supplies. The secondary bag that was formerly in UD-1 has now been put in UD-2. The hope is that having 2 bags will reduce the weight of the primary bag that we used before and that they will have only the needed supplies for the specific type of call. The new system was presented at the March membership

meeting so hopefully everyone got a chance to see the new placement of the bags and the supplies included in each one by viewing Jeff Sand's wonderful and well organized power point. This is a trail run so it is important that all members who have worked with the bags on a call or have come in contact with them at all provide their feedback to the teach/driver panel or to our director of equipment. Please feel free to give your honest opinions because they really would like to know if the system is working or not for our members.

## UD-1 visits troop 603

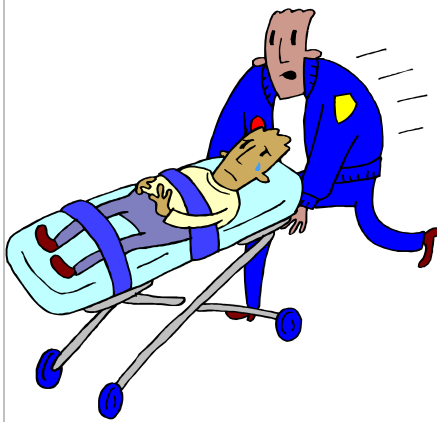
By: Meghan Connor

One of the goals of this years E-board it to try to get UD-1 and its members out into the community more in order to educate the various different groups of people as well as to advertise our services. So, on Thursday March 6, Charlie Mitchell, Chris Gale, Zack Gaskill, and I took UD-1 to a Boy Scout troop meeting at a local church. Charlie and Chris, who were are both Scouts, lead a session for the middle school boys about basic skills such as splinting and backboarding. Many of the boys already have training in First Aid, so the skills they already knew were also reinforced. Many of the kids were enthusiastic about getting involved in the situations and they were eager to answer questions. They were very well informed and often had the correct answer to Chris and Charlie's questions. When I was the victim of a fall while out camping in the woods, the Scouts were asked to splint my arm. Charlie and Chris helped them to splint my arm and gave them



ideas of what they could use if they did not have the splints that we have in UD-1 (examples include sticks and the metal lining of a backpack). Charlie and Chris decided to entertain the boys by backboarding their Scout Master and letting them help with the process. The backboarding was a big hit and they came up with some great ideas of items that could be used instead of a backboard. Finally, we let the boys go in the ambulance which they all thought was 'really cool'. It was a great experience to see kids enjoying UD-1 and having fun learning about emergency medicine. It made me realize how important it is to inform various different communities about what we do. UD-1 plans to attend different venues in the future to do this and hopefully many members will want to get involved and have the same experience that we did.

## March Scenario Training



By: Meghan Connor

Steve Snow held another training this month which was a great opportunity for members of the organization to practice their skills and to receive constructive criticism from evaluators. The scenario involved a 19 year old female who had been coughing up blood. She tells you that she just got back from a trip to Africa

and was sent home early with some medications and the results of a test in which they "put a bubble in her arm." What would be your first impression? The patient was relentlessly coughing and complaining of a sore throat from the coughing but no other pain. Her roommate provided a list of medications as well as the names of the tests that she had done. All of the groups that participated realized that it was important to protect themselves with masks and to give the patient oxygen which also acted as a barrier between the patient and the UD-1 teams. It was determined by the teams that the patient had tuberculosis

and they wanted to inform "the hospital" that they were "in route" The teams practiced using the radios and two of the teams practiced giving med channels as well. Basic skills such as use of the stretcher, taking vital signs, and giving nurses reports were practiced as well.

These scenario trainings are very helpful and serve as a great way to help EMT's and even those who are not yet EMT's to develop their skills in a situation where someone is not actually hurt. Snow has many more training ideas and will be working with Andrew, our director of training in the future to plan

more trainings. Hopefully the attendance at the next training will be better, so that more people can benefit from this opportunity There are many trainings offered through UDECU but also at Aetna, . at local hospitals, and through the state of Delaware. Remember that all level 3's and above must attend one training a month or you might be at risk for probation. We all need to keep learning in order to improve!