DISASTER RESEARCH CENTER ◆ UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

DRC Dispatch

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

MAY 2013

From the Director's Desk

Dear DRC Alums and Friends,

Welcome to the Spring 2013 Dispatch. We hope that the year is going well for you. It is for us, but the end of 2012 was a bit of a different story, with Hurricane Sandy. Delaware was spared the worst of the storm, but the families of several DRC personnel from the New York/New Jersey area were seriously affected, and are engaged in what will be a difficult recovery process. We fielded research teams throughout the affected area, pursuing topics that align with some of our current projects, including personal and material convergence, emergence, and emergency preparedness in hospitals and nursing homes. And just as we were putting the final touches on the Dispatch, devastating tornadoes struck Oklahoma. Students are in the field now, and will probably make more trips over the coming weeks, looking at donations, volunteers, and provision of disaster behavioral health services.

On a much brighter note, we have some excellent news to report, on a couple of different fronts. We have been fortunate to receive several anonymous but extremely generous gifts to support some important DRC activities. One gift provides transformational support to the E.L. Quarantelli Resource Collection. Over the years, the collection has expanded to some 60,000 items, while we also maintain the archive of documentation supporting all of DRC's studies since the center's establishment. This anonymous gift will allow us to continue to expand the collection and to improve our capacity for archiving and preservation of older or delicate materials and also facilitate digitizing documents and modernizing the cataloguing infrastructure. It will also permit us to begin to gather more artifacts. At present, DRC's holdings on the material culture of disaster are rather eclectic and somewhat modest, but we see a need to collect and preserve some of the physical representations of individuals' and institutions' interpretations of disaster.

Other very generous gifts will endow research assistantships and support quick-response fieldwork. The educational dimension of the "DRC experience" is maybe not as well-recognized outside of the circle of alums and friends as the research aspect, but education in disaster science and research methods has been a principal activity at DRC. These gifts will bolster our ability to offer that experience to students outside of funded projects and will allow students to pursue research that will be scientifically useful but that may not be presently on the radar of funding agencies. Quick-response reconnaissance has long been a feature of DRC's research, and the gift to support these activities will open this research method to more students here. We are extremely grateful for these gifts to DRC. If you would like to contribute to any of these efforts, please contact us about how to make a tax-deductible donation to DRC.

Many thanks are also due in another direction, to Thomas Drabek for inviting DRC to host the collected papers and other materials of his research career. These join the papers of Charles Fritz and Rocco Caporale and constitute another important DRC activity: preserving the record of research that may benefit scholars who are interested in various kinds of retrospective research or who are interested in the history and sociology of science. We hope that others will be interested in finding a home at DRC for their research archives, and we'd be glad to talk about how to do that.

And last, but certainly not least, we know that DRC alums have been keeping a close eye on the calendar. Soon we will be marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of DRC, and we are planning a bit of a celebration. So mark your calendars and be alert for further updates: April 30-May 4, 2014.

DRC has been an important place for us; for some of us, working at DRC ranks among the most important experiences of our lives. We'll look forward to this event, and to visiting with everyone who has a fondness for DRC.

Meanwhile, we had more happening this year than we can include in a reasonably-sized newsletter, so we plan on a new Dispatch in late summer.

Best wishes,

Jim Kendra

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Who's visiting the DRC now?

Veronica Strandberg~

My name is Veronica Strandberg and I'm from Umeå, Sweden. I am a PhD student at Umeå University, located in the northern part of Sweden, a very beautiful area, especially if you like skiing and outdoor activities (and snow).

I'm staying at DRC as a visiting scholar between January and June. This is my third year as a PhD student and my research is on terrorism and crisis management. I look at how we can improve the capacity to prepare and respond to terrorist attacks targeting rail bound traffic. My focus in on a Swedish preparedness context however, I also analyze international lessons learned from major attacks.

I spend most of my time writing my dissertation. As a PhD student in Sweden, however, it is also common that you get the opportunity to teach. Therefore, I teach peace and conflict studies, something that I find very inspiring! The crisis or disaster management research field in Sweden is expanding; however, it is still a rather small community. Staying at DRC is therefore a perfect opportunity for me. I really find it beneficial for my research to take part in classes, and using the resource center is of course fantastic. It is also inspiring to be able to chat about research on a daily basis with all the people working at DRC.

I´m here in Newark with my fiancé Andreas. Even though it's a small city, we are definitely enjoying our stay. We spend most of our weekends running; White Clay Park with its fun trails is a favorite!

Who's visiting the DRC now?

Nuno Martins~

My name is V. Nuno Martins and I'm a graduate research assistant at the University of the Azores (Portugal). I have a Bachelor's degree in Physical Geography and a Master's degree in GIS & Science. I have been working since 2009 in the field of disaster studies, namely, social vulnerability assessment and risk mitigation through land-use management. This is my second academic internship at DRC, once again under the academic supervision of Professor Benigno Aguirre.

There are two major goals that justify my academic internship at DRC. First, I'm developing a Ph.D. proposal regarding a pro-active and contextual assessment of vulnerability to flash-floods in Madeira Island. This approach aims to include local knowledge during the vulnerability assessment, taking into account, for instance, the memory of disaster (or lack of), the risk perception, and the sociocultural and political backgrounds in the social system being studied. Understanding how these elements influence the way the Madeira population prepares, copes with and recovers from flash-floods will be of added value to propose effective mitigation policies, both infrastructural and non-infrastructural. Second, I'm preparing my application to the Disaster Science and Management Ph.D. program in the School of Public Policy and Administration (UDEL), in order to continue my graduate studies.

Seven months since the beginning of the academic internship I'm delighted with the experience. This is not a surprise due to multiple reasons. Among them I must highlight the magnificent resources available for every DRC visitor, namely the E.L. Quarantelli Resource Collection. Furthermore, the multiple discussions with the DRC core faculty and graduate students is an excellent opportunity to expand my knowledge about several fields of disaster science. On the other hand, this is a multidisciplinary research institute which helps to learn about different disaster studies perspectives. Finally, I must underline some activities organized at the DRC, for example, by the International Association of Emergency Managers student chapter. They are valuable opportunities to share knowledge and experience.

As a conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to all the DRC family for this amazing opportunity and experience.

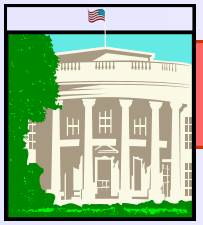
National Transportation Safety Board at DRC.

Sharon Bryson, Deputy Director of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) visited DRC on November 5 and spoke with students and faculty. Ms Bryson is a UD Grad (Psychology) and set up NTSB's disaster assistance program that provides help to families and communities. She described NTSB's roles and responsibilities in responding to and investigating air, marine, rail and coach accidents.

Lauren Clay, Alex Greer, Sharon Bryson, Sue McNeil and James Kendra.

Università Politecnica delle Marche
Series of seminars
Ancona, Italy

In October 2012, DRC Director James Kendra presented a series of seminars to students in the Protezione Civile program at Università Politecnica delle Marche, in Ancona, Italy. The seminars covered both fundamentals of disaster science as well as the emergency management system in the US. He also met with a number of graduate students in the program's Disaster Lab, learning about their ongoing research projects.



American Red Cross at the White House

On 9/15/2012, associate director Tricia Wachtendorf gave a presentation on organizational resilience at the White House, as part of American Red Cross day. ARC members were also honored as Champions of Change.

Tricia Wachtendorf, Associate Director of the Disaster Research Center, sat on a panel discussing organizational resiliency. The talk was one activity in a day dedicated to the theme of building resilient communities. Dr. Wachtendorf's panel took place just before a speech delivered by the day's marquee speaker, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. Other presenters included the president of the American Red Cross and high-level White House staffers. The main event celebrated select Red Cross staff and volunteers as "Champions of Change" working in communities across the country to keep families and individuals safe in emergencies.

APHA Presentation

On October 29, 2012 DISA graduate students Lauren Clay and James Goetschius gave a coauthored (with James Kendra and Mia Papas) presentation on The Effects of Mental Health on Disaster Preparedness at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco.https://apha.confex.com/apha/140am/webprogram/Paper264526.html

SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date!

April 30-May 04, 2014

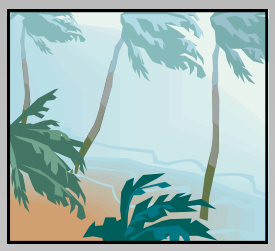
DRC 50th Anniversary

Celebration at the University of Delaware!!!!

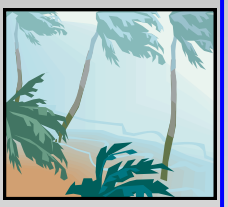
More info to come.

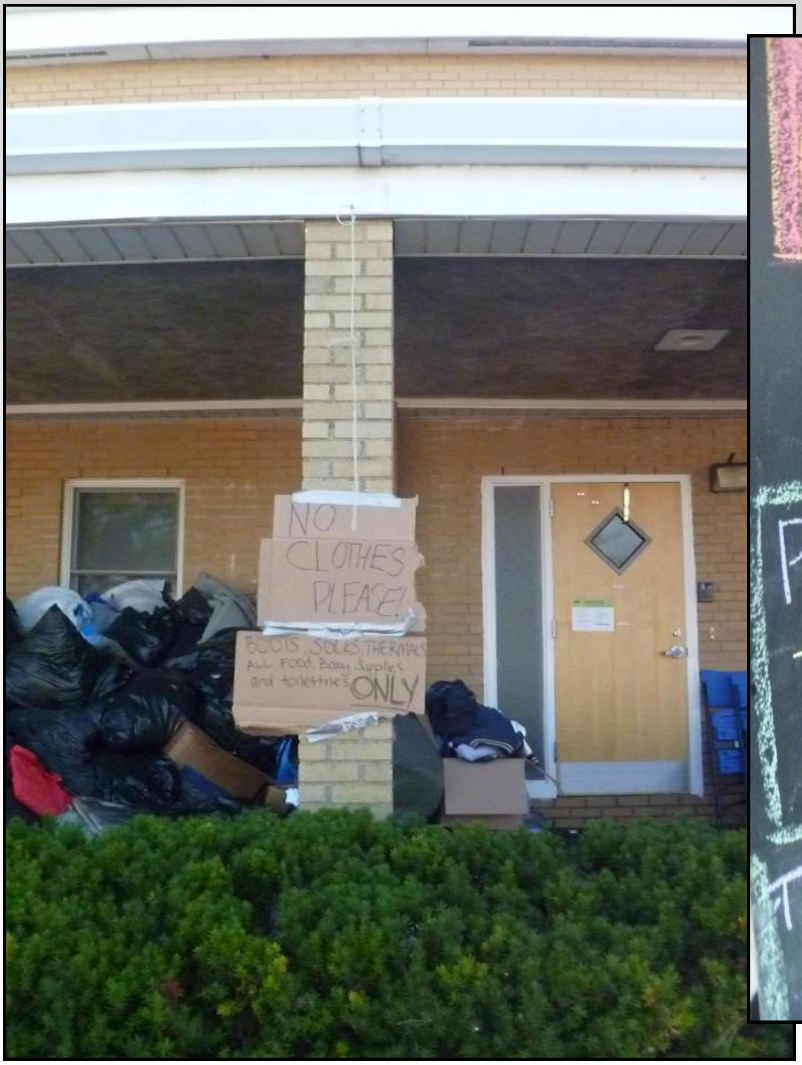
Please be on the look out for extra mini newsletter updates!

HURRICANE SANDY
October 2012



Hurricane Sandy caused extensive damage along the New Jersey and New York shorelines. Several field teams traveled from DRC on quick-response reconnaissance, documenting emergent activity, volunteer and donations management, and the early recovery period.




NO
CLOTHES
PLEASE!
BOOTS, SOLES, THERMALS
ALL FOOD, Baby Supplies
and toilettries ONLY

MEDICAL
INFO
PRESCRIPTION
- RITE AID ON 10PTH
- DUANE READE ON 116TH
TOPICAL & OVER TH
COUNTER
TETANUS
SHOTS

Some of our Recent Presentations and Publications

Aguirre, B. E., El-Tawil, S., **Best, E**., **Gill, K**., and Fedorov, V. "Contributions of Social Science to Agent Based Models of Building Evacuation." Reprint, Chapter 10, Crowds in the 21st century. Perspectives from contemporary social science, edited by John Drury, Clifford Stott. Routledge – 208 pages. http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415635905/.

Aguirre, B. E. 2012. Better Disaster Statistics: The Lisbon Earthquake. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 43(1) 27-42.

Best, E., and **Greer, A**. All Oil Spills are Local: Severity, Framing, Legislation, and GDP Change in States and The Nation. International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

Chang, H. Managing Personnel and Resources in Disaster Scenes. International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

Brittingham, R. and **Wachtendorf, T**. Hidden in the Numbers: Anticipated Disaster Shelter Use for People with Health and Access Concerns. International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

Engel, K., Frerks, G., **Velotti, L**., Warner, J., and Weijs, B. Disaster Cultures in the Netherlands: Borgharen and Itteren. International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

Holguín-Veras, J., Jaller, M., Van Wassenhovec, L.N., Pérezd, N., and **Wachtendorf, T**. 2012. On the Unique Features of Post-Disaster Humanitarian Logistics. *Journal of Operations Management* 30: 494–506

Holguín-Veras, J., Jaller, M., **Wachtendorf, T.** Comparative Performance of Alternative Humanitarian Logistic Structures after the Port-au-Prince Earthquake: ACEs, PIEs, and CANs. 2012. *Transportation Research Part A 46:* 1623–1640

Nelan, M. and **Wachtendorf, T**. Aging Populations and Anticipated Compliance with Hurricane Evacuation Warnings. International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

Trainor, J.E., Murray-Tuite, P., Edara, P., Fallah-Fini, S., and Triantas, K. 2012. An Interdisciplinary Approach to Evacuation Modeling. *Natural Hazards Review*.

Trainor, J.E., Nagele, D. and **Scott, B**. "False Alarm Understanding and Perception." Presented at American Meteorological Society Annual Conference, January 8, 2013. Austin, TX

Velotti, L., **Trainor, J.E.,** Engel, K., **Torres, M.,** and Miyamoto, T. 2013. Beyond Vertical Evacuation: Research Considerations for a Comprehensive "Vertical Protection Strategy". International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters 31(1): 60-77

Velotti, L., Fendt, A., and **Trainor, J.** Understanding Tornado Warning and Watch**.** International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

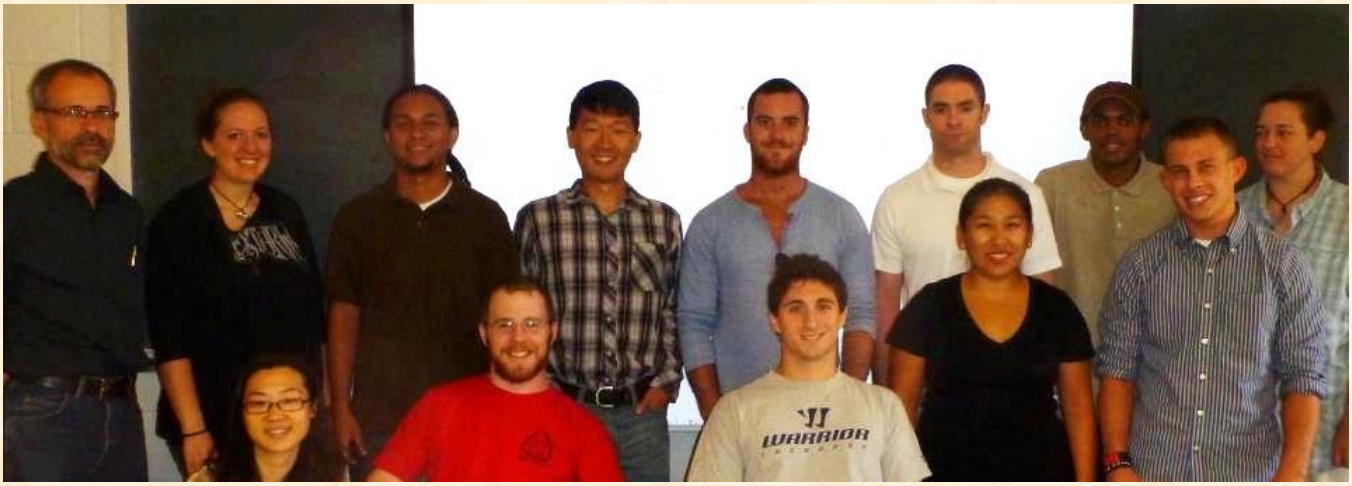
Wachtendorf, T. and **Kendra, J.** 2012. Reproductive Improvisation and the Virtues of Sameness: The Art of Reestablishing New York City's Emergency Operations Center. *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters* 30(3): 249-274.

Young, P. What About Collections? Mitigation Best Practices for University Collections to Ensure Resilience" at Disaster Resistant University Workshop. University of New Orleans. March, 2013.

Young, P. Delaware Disaster Assistance Team**.** Heritage Emergency Partnership Forum in Philadelphia. April, 2013.

Zelewicz, L. **Stansfield, R**., and **Wachtendorf, T**. When There is Fear of the Shelter from the Storm: Gender, Fear of Crime, and Hurricane Shelter Decision Making. International Research Committee on Disasters Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, Colorado. July 2012.

Welcome to our 3rd cohort of Disaster Science and Management graduate students!



Pictured seated from left: (seated) Chunjing Liu, Zach Adinoff, Anthony Cario, Mei Johnson, Brian Gildemeyer. (standing) Darryl Yoder-Bontrager, Anne Goodman, Hans Louis-Charles, Yi "Victor" Wang, Andrew Smith, Ryan Burke, Zephi Francis, Sarah Gregory. Not pictured: Oliver Bell and Ben Wallace.

Student Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Eric Best** on the successful defense of his dissertation: Incorporating Groups, Collective Behavior, and Information Visualization in Agent-Based Models of Evacuation.

Danielle Nagele successfully defended her dissertation proposal "Evolution of Culture among Warning System Organizations" in August 2012, and moved on to Doctoral Candidacy.

Sizheng Li, defended his dissertation "Modeling Urban Post-Earthquake and Wildland Urban Interface Fire Spread and Suppression." In February he began a job as a research engineer at AIR Worldwide in Boston.

Congratulations!

Eva Wilson, accepted a position as an Internal Policy Analyst II for the Recovery Branch of Kentucky's Division of Emergency Management on November 01, 2012.

Congratulations to DRC researcher and DISA PhD student **Jim Goetschius** on successfully defending his dissertation proposal! His research is on "Improving Hospital Survivability: Tools To Inform Hospital Planning And Design".

Congratulations to DRC Graduate Research Assistant **Danielle Nagele** on being awarded a prestigious NSF Doctoral Dissertation Award.

Congratulations to former DRC researcher and Sociology student **Jenniffer Santos Hernandez** on the successful defense of her dissertation "Integrating Perspectives on Social Vulnerability to Disasters and Emergency Management in Puerto Rico. Dr. Santos Hernandez will be starting a researcher position with the Center for Social Research at University of Puerto Rico-Rio Piedras.

Yvonne Rademacher, successfully defended her dissertation: "The Political Economy of Community Disaster Management Assets: A Case Study of the Farm Community in Sussex County, Delaware in March 2013.

Susan Brink, DRC researcher and Ph.D. candidate in civil engineering, recently returned from a year in Padang, Indonesia, where she collected data to better understand the effects of the 2009 earthquake on the city's historic development and disaster mitigation. Her dissertation focuses on the interactions between economic development and disaster risk.

Susan Brink took the photo in Padang, Indonesia during an evacuation from a relatively small earthquake. Because of the city's location, a tsunami is expected to arrive within 20-40 minutes of ground shaking, but the traffic is often backed up in the danger zone for hours after earthquakes. She noted that there is a lot of concern about whether Padang can effectively evacuate from a tsunami even if there is clear warning.

Jim Goetschius was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army on Friday, 5 October 2012. Colonel Guy Kiyokawa officiated the ceremony. Jim's wife, Nikki, son, James, and parents, Garry and Holly, participated in the ceremony by putting his new shoulderboards on his uniform. Ryan Burke, a PhD Student and former Marine Corps officer, read the promotion orders. The ceremony was well attended by members of the Disaster Research Center, Disaster Science and Management program, and Sociology program.

Pictured left:

Following the promotion, Colonel Kiyokawa presented a coin from his role as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Facilities, Office of The Surgeon General to Nikki and James Goetschius.

Pictured right:

Nikki and James Goetschius affix one of Jim's new shoulderboards to his uniform.

DRC SPIRIT MUD RUN

Members of the DRC competed in the Bill Botttino Mud Run for cancer held in Millville, NJ. Participants and cheerleaders are as follows: (front row kneeling) Danielle Nagele, Sam Penta, Alex Greer, Jennifer Lazo, James Goetschius, James Kendra, and Eva Wilson. (back row standing) Lauren Clay, James Goetschius, Rochelle Brittingham, Nicholas Santella, and Juliette Santella.

Above -From left: Samantha Penta, Delilah Greer, Alex Greer, James Kendra, Danielle Nagele, Jennifer Lazo, and Eva Wilson.

Slithering determinedly……

Trying to make a point!

It's all downhill……...

Running the course…..

On the podium

Near the end……

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You can follow us on Facebook at Disaster Research Center and also on Twitter at: DRC@udeldrc

Here it is.....the third issue! Your input is always welcome! If you have any information or updates that you would like posted in the next issue, please feel free to contact DRC or me personally.

Have a good summer!

Best Regards, Gail Kracyla *Email: prissy@udel.edu*

DRC Society Page.....

FUTURE DRC Researchers!

Doctoral student, Rochelle Brittingham and her husband, Nicholas Santella added to their family on February 20, 2013. Please welcome to the world ~ Magdeline Marie Santella!

Former Visiting Scholar , Tao Peng and his wife Lijin welcomed into the world, a daughter born on October 10, 2012.

Professor Joe Trainor and his wife, Pam, welcomed to the world Caroline Mary Trainor on March 05, 2013!

Dr. Manuel Torres and his wife Melissa, proudly announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Lee Torres, born on January 18, 2013.