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Volume 1, Issue 1

March 2010

IN THE NEWS

Roanoke City to Sell Fire Stations:

The Roanoke City Developer has decided to sell Stations 3 and 9.

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From the JCHS—EHS Director

Jefferson College of Health Sciences Bachelors of Science in Emergency will celebrate its one year anniversary this August. Jefferson's newest program has been a big success attracting students from all over Virginia and as far away as California.



The Emergency Services program is the culmination of 3 years of planning and development which was spearheaded by a survey sent to over 100 fire and EMS chiefs in the Mid-Atlantic region. The results of the survey spoke clearly that a new program was needed to develop the future leaders of the fire and EMS industries. The respondents indicated that cross-training, management development and a college degree were critical to the success of industry. From this, a two track program was developed, firefighter/paramedic and critical care/paramedic. Both tracks also have emergency management components included in the Junior and Senior years. These course were adopted from the Fire and Emergency Services Higher Education (FESHE) curriculum developed by FEMA. The combination of these elements into a Baccalaureate degree is a first, and will hopefully serve as a model for the future.

The number of applications (over 120) has surpassed the numbers previously seen with Associate degrees and there has been an overall increase in high school GPAs and SAT scores. The goal for the first cohort was 18 students, however, due to the number of applicants it was increased to 24. The goal for the second year was bumped to 28 and we are pleased to announce that the program was filled as of January and has a waiting list. This is the first time the program has filled and had a substantial waiting list in more than 10 years.

The last class of Associate of Applied Science degree students from the EHS-Paramedic and Fire and EMS Technology programs will graduate in May. The first class of new program will graduate in spring 2013. The students have been busy helping develop the identity of the program. They have created a set of core principles for which the program will be built and recently interviewed for positions within their team based leadership structure.

Tom Pedigo '98

I was 20yrs old when I began at EHS. I graduated in '98, then attended PA school in New York. My first job as a physician assistant was in surgery for a year in Kentucky, then I moved to Denver, Colorado, to work as a PA on a Critical Care Transport team for a professional paramedic company. During this time I also worked half-time in a local ED. After a few years, I became Asst. Medical Director, and supervised PAs, CCRNs, paramedics and emergency dispatch protocols for that company (Pridemark Paramedics, LLC). In 2004 I was hired by the City of Thornton to become their first Asst. Fire Chief of EMS, and brought the previously-privatized EMS service under the fire department, hiring and training paramedic/firefighters, and developing both the financial and operational components of the EMS leg of that department. In 2005 I completed my Master's in Risk, Crisis and Disaster Management from Univ of Leicester, England via distance/short visit learning combination. After 4 years in this job with Thornton Fire, I realized my dream of returning to grad school at Univ of Denver for International Development, and returned to full time clinical practice as a PA in occupational health. I have spent a brief amount of time advising the Ministry of Health in Uzbekistan about EMS operations, and I have 10 years with a Federal DMAT/WMD-Decon disaster response team, with seven deployments to Hurricanes Katrina/Rita/Hugo/Ike, the Democratic National Convention and Salt Lake City Olympics (for WMD decontamination preparedness). I am now a 1st Lieutenant in the Army Reserves (as a physician assistant), and as a Training Officer for my medical unit I supervise training for dental personnel and military medics. I am slated for deployment to Afghanistan with the Combined Joint Spec Ops Task Force-A in March of 2010. Throughout this time, I have kept my paramedic certification, and I continue to volunteer for a little squad known as Highland Rescue Team in the foothills of Colorado, where we do a little bit of everything from technical rescue, highway trauma, and occasional wilderness medicine. I love every bit of it!

Upon my return from Afghanistan, my goal is to be accepted into the PhD program at Univ of Denver, and to begin work on post-conflict reconstruction of health systems in war-torn countries via accession into the Army Civil Affairs units. I still intend to continue using my paramedic skills, in any way I can.

Lynn Baluh '04

I graduated in 2004, with an AS degree from the Jefferson College of Health Sciences and took part in the CC-EMTP course the University of Maryland Baltimore County offers (coursework was completed at the University of Pittsburgh). I am an active, practicing paramedic for Christiansburg Rescue Squad and serve as an instructor/preceptor for the New River Valley EMT-ENand EMT-I programs. My Master's work was in Library Science and I work full-time at Radford University's McConnell Library. I currently am also a doctoral candidate in Health Sciences at A. T. Still University with a projected graduation date of March 2011.

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Jennifer Maxfield

I worked as Paramedic for six years after graduating from JCHS. I am currently in my fourth year of teaching sixth grade. I am also a disaster reservist for FEMA. I am married and have two step-kids. In my free time I enjoy kayaking, hiking, and traveling.

John Cook '00

Completed Bachelor's at George Washington, Master's in Business at Averett, Master's in Emergency Management at George Washington, and working on Doctor of Education at NOVA Southeastern University. Currently serving as faculty in the Emergency Services program at JCHS.

Emmett Burckell '02

After graduating in 2002, I married, divorced, and then moved to Saint Thomas where I called home for a couple of years. Once I decided that it was time to move back to the States, I decided upon a career in the United States Coast Guard. When I graduated the Coast Guard Academy, I was assigned to a ship that served the Bering Sea out of Alaska. I have been there for about three years and have had the fortunate opportunity of being involved in some of the biggest rescues in Coast Guard history. I recently received confirmation that I will be headed to the Coast Guard's only sail ship, "The Eagle" which is stationed at the Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut. So, this summer I will be headed back to the east coast.

I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's homecoming!



Jefferson College of Health Sciences is in the process of converting the school over to the old Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital.

The school we all know is becoming very old and simply "falling apart" according to one student.