Greetings from the Company Supervisor

University Ambulance Service (UAS) has always been known for the great opportunities it provides to the students at Penn State. It is a unique service learning opportunity for student EMTs, allowing for development of professionalism, leadership, mentorship, and emergency medical skills. More importantly, it creates an opportunity for us to provide an essential service for the community in which we live.

The long-term impact of the UAS experience is evidenced by the success of our alumni across diverse disciplines. This semester has served to uphold the great tradition of service learning, as we have been involved in educating our peers, providing opportunities for students to observe our service, and delivering emergency care for our campus and our expanded coverage of special events on and off campus. As UAS reflects on our rich past and contributions from alumni, we will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the University, the students, and our community.

-Sheri Hale
Company Supervisor

New Volunteer and Staff Promotions

UAS brought in a strong group of volunteers for the Fall 2003 and Spring 2004 semesters and we owe them a big Thank You! Without our volunteer staff we couldn't do our job. The Fall volunteer class included: Chris Bierman, Michael Bowser, Rob Elliott, Eric Gold, Patrick Gomella, Jon Halem, Bryan Hand, Mark Jermusyk, Zack Levy, Jessica Ludwig, Chris Lupcho, Jessica McMinn, Matt Palilonis, Emily Satteson, Matt Valocchi, and Brian Werner. Of those volunteers, we promoted Chris Bierman, Mark Jermusyk, Zack Levy, Chris Lupcho and Matt Valocchi in January. Congratulations!

Our Spring volunteer class includes: Tim Braun, Jenn Davis, Holly Emmanuel, Abby Fritz, Marc Gutierrez, Crystal Hartman, Matt McMullan, Erica Redline, and Andrew Weiss. While very young, these volunteers stand out and show a lot of promise for the future. They are a very enthusiastic and hard working group that are excited about being involved with UAS. The crew members have been pleased with all of our volunteers and their performance this semester, which lets us know they are making everyone's job both enjoyable and easier! If you see these volunteers on shift or on campus, congratulate them on a job well done. Keep up the good work!

-Corey Hull
Volunteer Supervisor

Recent Statistics:
• UAS had 872 calls in 2003; this is an increase from 814 calls in 2002 and 691 calls in 2001
• 493 patients were seen throughout the year
• UAS staff worked a total of 13,520 hours from July-December 2003
• UAS volunteers worked 3,148 hours from July-December 2003

Late-Breaking News:
NCMSF Names Penn State’s EMS as Outstanding EMS Organization of the Year at Annual Conference! See page 4 for more

Visit us on the Web!
UAS: www.clubs.psu.edu/dept/ems
EMSA: www.clubs.psu.edu/dept/emsa
THON ON!

PSU EMS continues to be very involved in the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. Not only do we provide 48-hour EMS coverage at THON for the participants, but we also participate as a student organization through EMSA. Last year EMSA sent four dancers to THON and all four completed the marathon successfully. Representing EMSA for THON 2004 were Kristen Mintmier, Jen Rejmaniak, Steph Sharp, and Steph Larson. Another EMSA member, Caitlin Yerkes, danced for the Club Water Polo Team. Our first cann-ning solicitation weekend of the year was a big success, raising $2,000 in two days! Our second cann ing trip was another great success, raising over $1,800 in a day and a half. We are well on our way to beat last year’s total of $4,800. EMSA also received the honor of being paired with a Four Diamonds family this year. Our new Thon child is 3-year-old Tucker Haas of York, PA. Tucker is a big basketball fan and enjoys playing and watching the sport. We’re very excited about having Tucker in our lives. If you wish to donate to THON this year, it’s not too late! Please contact Jeff Rosebach at jdr205@psu.edu. For the kids!

Girl Scouts Day!

On Sunday December 7, 2003 members of the University Ambulance Service hosted a Girl Scouts Badge Day in conjunction with the College Girl Scout Club. Local Girl Scout troops traveled to the Penn State campus in order to complete their First Aid badge. Several different short programs were designed by UAS members to inform the girls about different aspects of basic first aid, such as first aid kits, sprains, splinting, bandaging. We also had group discussions on basic emergencies and how to get help by calling 911. After the program, we gave the girls a basic tour of our ambulance. All UAS members and Girl Scout Troops alike had a wonderful time and great learning experience. UAS is planning a similar event for the spring of 2004.

CPR Programs

The CPR program of the Emergency Medical Services Association has been busy certifying as many people in CPR as possible over the past semester. The numbers are in, and they illustrate all of the hard work that the community, instructors, and assistant instructors have undertaken in their quest to save lives.

Do you or a group you belong to want to join the ranks of life-savers now traversing campus? According to the American Heart Association, more than 600 Americans die everyday from sudden cardiac arrest, and we want to change that! CPR saves lives and buys time until life-saving defibrillators can reach a patient. Whether you need the certification for a job, want to re-fresh your skills, or want to better the community, the EMSA can help you!

Contact cprpsu@psu.edu for more information on how you can enroll in a CPR class today!!!
Training Corner

At UAS, training has become one of our top priorities over the past year. The Training Committee, composed of seven members (both volunteer and paid) has set a goal of holding at least one training session per week. The months of September, October, November, and December met that goal with surpassed expectations. The Committee hosted an average of over one training per week and sent many new volunteers to EVOC and HazMat Operations. Ten company members also took the American Heart Association CPR instructor class and are currently working on completing the certification. Another exciting training opportunity occurred on October 12th, when Doug Wolfberg, former Rit Rat and current EMS attorney, visited UAS to host a training session. He lectured on proper documentation and other legal aspects of EMS, which was very well received by UAS members. Topics ranged from HIPAA concerns to new advanced directive and DNR laws and how they affect EMS providers. The company was grateful to have had the privilege of hosting Mr. Wolfberg for the night.

The training program also owes Dr. Kasandra Botti a great deal of thanks. Another former Rit Rat, Dr. Botti has played an integral role in our training program this year. Dr. Botti has hosted several informal training sessions and has lectured formally for PA state continuing education credits. Her support is highly valued and appreciated. We would love to have any alums or guest speakers come back to assist in training seminars or to tell us more about your life after Penn State EMS. If you are interested in coming to speak or hold a training opportunity, please contact Mike Tilden at mwt131@psu.edu

Company 20 Takes a National Approach

University Ambulance Service celebrated National Collegiate EMS week during the week of November 10—14, 2003. Spearheaded by UAS’ Public Relations Committee, UAS members joined together to make NCEMS week a success. On Monday, students and faculty had the opportunity to get their blood pressure taken and learn more about PSU EMS as they stopped by the Emergency Medical Services Association table that was set up in the HUB. Tuesday, crew and vollies alike braved the cold, rainy University Park weather to offer passersby in front of Ritenour a tour of 2051 and the EMS gators. Wednesday was UAS pride day, which entailed wearing EMS clothing and stethoscopes around campus for the day. Thursday was company appreciation day to celebrate all the hard work that is put into making this ambulance service run smoothly. Company 20 ended the week with a mock D.U.I. accident in front of Ritenour which involved two 2051 crews, bystanders, and three patients who needed to be removed from the crashed vehicle.

The events that took place throughout the week gave members of Company 20 a chance to work together and promote the ambulance service on campus. In addition, UAS was featured on the NCEMSF website for all of our hard work and initiative during the week. UAS was asked to create a presentation based on our NCEMSF activities for the 2004 NCEMSF Conference held in Baltimore on February 28-29.

More pictures can be viewed on our online photo gallery!

http://www.psu.edu/dept/ems/photoalbum/
Alumnus in the Spotlight

Michael Benenati ‘83 of the New Paltz Rescue Squad received the New York State Department of Health Advanced Emergency Medical Technician of the year award at the New York State Vital Signs Conference in October in Syracuse. He has been an EMT for 26 years and is assistant captain of the New Paltz Rescue Squad. He joined the squad in 1977 and has served as volunteer captain and was vice president of Ulster County Emergency Medical Services Council from 1985 to 2002. He has also been a volunteer firefighter and part-time 9-1-1 dispatcher. He is currently serving as acting emergency medical services coordinator for Ulster County. Michael lives with his wife Lynette and their three children in New Paltz.

Award Fund

The Emergency Medical Services Alumni Interest Group has resolved to create an endowed award to support Penn State students at University Park who serve the University and local community in emergency medical services. As alumni, we realize the importance of this service learning opportunity in developing professional skills and leadership abilities in students while they serve the community. We invite contributions to this fund to help promote opportunities and provide for recognition awards for Penn State students who volunteer and work for University Health Services Office of Emergency Medical Services. The University Ambulance Service Alumni Award Endowment fund will help recognize the students for all of the important contributions they make to emergency medical services at Penn State and the community. For more information please visit our web site at http://psualum.com/affiliate/emsaig/ Please help by making a contribution to recognize the students who follow in your footsteps.

EMS Education

The office of EMS has another full semester planned for the Spring Semester of 2004. The four-credit Kinesiology 403 course (EMT Class) is once again being led by EMS instructor John Bianco. This class consists of weekly lecture and lab sessions. This semester we have almost 60 EMT students. The National Registry written exam will be an option for all students who successfully complete the course. Other courses being offered this semester include: EMS Assistant Instructor, CPR Instructor, EVOC (taught by EMS Supervisor Wes Cartwright) and the EMS Teaching Practicum. There are also many new courses being offered for the 2003-2004 year. The Introduction to UAS Systems course will orient all new volunteer members in UAS. A one-credit EMS Seminar class will offer continuing education credits for attending lectures given by local EMS and medical professionals. The newly revised EMS Systems course will give all students a more in-depth, macro-level look into the complexity of the EMS world. This year certainly promises to be an enriching educational experience for everyone.

EMS Alumni Shop

The Penn State EMS Alumni Shop is now open. What's the EMS Alumni Shop you ask? It is an on-line e-store where you can purchase custom Co. 20 apparel, house wares, and other items, as well as posters and mugs of your crew photo. There are even a few items for your “little lions” at home. All of the proceeds from the EMS Alumni Shop go directly to the UAS Alumni Award endowment fund. How to get there: http://psualum.com/affiliate/emsaig/shop.htm This has the master link to our group of shops. The link may change so don’t bookmark the actual shopping pages or you won’t see new items when they are added. Now you can get that old crew photo that you always wished you had. Happy Shopping!

Breaking News—Penn State EMS Wins National Award

Every year the National Collegiate EMS Foundation recognizes one collegiate EMS organization that has demonstrated outstanding service to its campus. The award was presented at the annual NCEMSF conference in Baltimore at the end of February. Penn State EMS was represented by 24 students.

One of the highlights of the conference for our members was the presentation of the EMS Organization of the Year Award. This award is frequently a result of marked improvements in staffing, equipment, or level of service provided. This year’s winner was Penn State’s EMS! Congratulations to all of our members for their dedicated service!