

Eastern Kentucky University Association of Fire Science Technicians

AFST Alumni Newsletter

Issue 7
Spring 2009

The Latest from AFST!

Abbie Boeing

Alumni and Friends,

As I'm sure most of you know, the Association of Fire Science Technicians is a service based student organization with the Department of Safety, Security and Emergency Management here at Eastern Kentucky University, with a special emphasis placed on the fire service and safety fields. Through AFST, members strive to promote fire and safety through pride in our organization, community service, and fire prevention. As in years past, we here at AFST have taken on even more tasks and responsibilities both on campus, and within the Richmond community.

As you will discover as you read on, AFST has begun many new projects which can only help our organization to grow. Through strengthening relationships with the FSE program and the Richmond Fire Department, AFST has been able to positively influence countless lives both on and off campus. Through all of the activities AFST has to offer and the friendships and contacts made through the organization, students will leave Eastern being more prepared to start a successful career.

A new thing from AFST this year is our addition of The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE). Each member of AFST has a choice to join SFPE to help make them part of more organizations and to meet more involved, important people that can help with careers. If you would like to gain more information about this new part of AFST feel free to visit our website, www.afst.eku.edu, or to contact me at abigail_boeing@eku.edu. I would also like to thank all of those who were able to make it to Richmond for Homecoming weekend in the fall. There were a few changes this year and everyone seemed to have a great time. Without your support, AFST would not be able to provide the many great events to both our membership and the community. Thanks again!

Note from the President

Jacob Tabor

Alumni & Friends:

It has been and continues to be an eventful year with AFST. We hope that this newsletter can continue to provide some insight into what we the Association of Fire Science Technician's are doing to continue upon the history has built for us. We are continuing to evolve and hopefully will continue to grow into the strong organization to which we have been for several years now. We are currently holding around the 60 member mark and have taken on along with made our name strong within the EKU campus community.

I hope this Newsletter will provide some insight into where we as AFST wish to go, and how we hope that our Alumni can support and assist in bridging any obstacles that might come along.

Thank you,
William Jacob Tabor
AFST President 2008-'09

Right: Members of AFST at
I-Chiefs 2008



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Alumni Relations

Our New Advisor

As some of you know, Professor Shane LaCount left ECU in the fall 2008 semester and stepped into the position of Assistant Chief over Training in Mooresville, NC we have gained a new member/ advisor to the AFST family and that is our new advisor James Pharr. Professor Pharr has stepped in taking Professor LaCount's role as the FSE program coordinator and as the AFST Advisor. We welcomed Professor Pharr as he has been with us for quite awhile and will continue to provide guidance and understanding in where AFST can continue to go.

Online Membership

Caleb Armbrust

With the new formation of the ECU FSE program going online with the FSE administration option it was only thought that the online community members would want to have some part in AFST. Therefore the formation of an Online Membership office was created a year ago in overseeing and handling the operations of coordinating new online members. The online program is running very well and we currently have 8 members! Please feel free to become a member.

EKU Rescue School

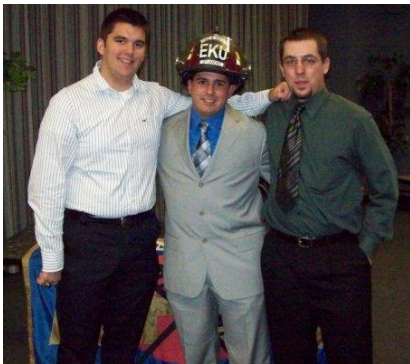
2008 Rescue School marked the 27th year and was a great success and has continued to build upon providing training to first responders and rescue squads from around the state of Kentucky. There were 2 and 3 day courses that all went very well. Some classes included in Rescue School were EMT Refresher, Wide Area Search Course, Rope Assisted Rescue, Incident Safety Officer, Trench Rescue, Dragging Operations and Inland Water Search. Again, this weekend went very well and was successful for all who attended.



Above: Trench Rescue at Rescue School 2008.

September 11th Memorial

Mark Gordon



Above: Members of AFST at the Alumni Banquet
Also part of the 9/11 Committee

Seven years ago, our nation went through one of its greatest disasters on the morning of September 11 2001. 343 New York City Fireman, 23 New York City Police officers and 37 Port Authority Police Officers lost their lives that day. This past year, on the anniversary of September 11th many students found that there was no ceremony or memorial that honored those brave men and women who paid the ultimate price that day. With the support of AFST, LAE (criminal justice organization), and teachers and staff of the FSE program there will be a memorial made to commemorate those who gave their lives in September 11th.

The location of this memorial will be in the lobby of the Stratton building. Within this memorial, we will pay tribute and honor those first responders and civilians that lost their lives on that tragic day.

The memorial will include a life size picture of the 3 New York City firemen raising the flag at ground zero, along with what I like to call the wall of heroes. Where we will place the name of every single police officer and firefighter killed that day, on the wall. Also we will incorporate a collage to remember those who passed away in the fields of Shanksville, PA and at the Pentagon. Lastly the focal point of our memorial will be a sculpture of the pentagon with the twin towers rising out of the center. This memorial will by no means be an easy task, but with the support of our faculty, organizations, students, and alumni this memorial will be completed, hopefully, with your help by September 11th 2009.

This memorial will not only serve to honor and remember those who answered the call that day, but it will also serve two other purposes. Show us the courage, commitment, and patriotism that those men and women showed that day, and most

importantly, the memorial will be used to teach the future generations that will walk the halls of Eastern Kentucky University to simply, NEVER FORGET.

Combat Challenge Team:

Tim Sholar

The EKU Firefighter Combat Challenge Team has excelled throughout the 2008 season. We have competed against the fastest teams in the world and have done exceptionally well. The team has competed in 4 events at locations including Evansville, Indiana, St. Louis, Missouri, Atlanta, Georgia, and Las Vegas, Nevada. Along with making the top 64 fastest teams in the World competition, we have finished in the top 8 teams in the St. Louis competition and have competed in the U.S. national competition. Our season has marked the best season for the Colonels since its inception. The world finals were in Las Vegas. Our team was able to go out and compete all week long with teams from all around the world. Teams came from countries like Germany, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia. Our goals for this next year are to make it into the second round of elimination for the world competition. The team of 2008 consisted of 2 relay teams with 9 members. The members are Scott Darby, Dustin Heiser, James Boyer, Marty Busching, Mitch Case, Andrew Blevins, Justin Howell, Kevin Geidel and Tim Sholar.

Treasurer Report

Patrick "Pork chop" Drottar

When the 2008 Fall semester began for AFST, I had no plans of being an officer. I had lost my chance for Website reelection to the very deserving Andrew Blevins. However, after the first couple meetings the spot of Treasurer had opened up and I decided to put my name in the list of candidates. Since being chosen as Treasurer, I have tried to keep up with AFST's financial status as much as possible. Making deposits, filling out withdrawal papers, and constantly checking our balance to make sure that we have as much money as we think we do. Through generous donations and hard work by the members of AFST, we were able to go from \$3,572.38 at the beginning of the 2008 school year to currently \$8,577.17. Through all of the hard work that we have done this year, we were able to give some of that money back to help out those around us. For example, members of AFST were able to donate and deliver various gift cards and AFST Paraphernalia to the troops located in Walter Reid Hospital. Also, we were able to make it out to Shriner's Hospital to donate presents and play



with the patients there. The rest of the semester will be exciting for AFST. With FDIC and the Safety Fair coming up, our hardworking members will not miss a beat. The time spent being treasurer for the Association of Fire Science Technicians has been an experience to remember. I would not be able to do my job without the help of the previous treasurer Mike Hopkins and also my fellow officers who I am grateful to have been able to work with. Hopefully we as an organization will finish strong and only continue to grow stronger.

Left: Members of AFST enjoying a day at the Pinnacles

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE)

Josh Reichert

There is an exciting new addition to AFST that began in the Fall 2008 semester. The creation and integration of The Society of Fire Protection Engineers SFPE as an active element in the organization has proven to be an influential factor in retaining and improving our membership status. Really, it has and will continue to bring more perks to being an AFST Member. For instance now as a member on-campus we are able to receive a packet and an annual magazine from the National Chapter of SFPE.

Professor Gregory Gorbett along with Josh Reichert AFST/SFPE Officer are continuing to build upon this area. This part of AFST will hopefully aid our Engineering Program students focus on how everyone has a part to play in the fire service.

Spring Banquet at FDIC 2009

This year we will not be at the Union Hall in Indianapolis instead for logistical reasons the College of Justice & Safety has offered to hold a gathering in the Hyatt hotel in downtown Indianapolis so that more Alumni, current students, and prospective students can come and mingle and socialize with everyone. This will again be a fun event and we encourage our alumni to stop in and let us know how you are doing

A Tragic Alumni Loss

The start of this spring semester was tough as news was given of the untimely death of William "Willie" Highland. Willie served as the AFST Paraphernalia Chair in 2006-2007 school year. He perished while in Dallas, Texas for a job interview with an investigations firm. His memorial service was held on February 13th, 2009 and some AFST members and Alumni made a visit and presence. Willie was also a strong member in Beta Theta Pi Fraternity, and they have asked that contributions be made in Will's memory to the Beta Theta Pi Foundation.

Beta Theta Pi Foundation
C/o EKV Chapter Fund
P.O. Box 6277
Oxford, OH 45056
In Memory of Will Highland

This is news we AFST hope to never have to give, but arrangements are continuing to be made to see that Willie be remembered by the FSE program.

History Wall & Patch Boards in Ashland

Since the formation of the FSE program in 1975 the history of the beloved Fire program is something that needs to be documented. This year has and continues to be a documentation and collection of facts and data to which can hopefully be presented in the Ashland building. Since there is quite a bit of empty wall space in the back hall way a collection of Pictures and data are being compiled so that in some way a visual appearance can be made for future students to know exactly how this program formed and has continued to progress.

With the FSE program continuing to grow the patch boards need to be expanded and room for new incoming patches be made. AFST is currently taking on this goal and a committee has been formed to build and put together the materials needed to update and expand the patch collection. All patches will be placed in the Ashland Building. This will provide the atmosphere to which current and prospective students can see how vast our program is and it's tradition in collecting fire patches.

If you have any patches or EKV FSE history you wish to be displayed please mail it to:

521 Lancaster Ave.
Att: AFST
250 Stratton Building
Richmond, KY 40475

We ask that you please provide any information about yourself, and if it is historical to the FSE program any information about the document, picture, or item you have sent. We appreciate the assistance of our Alumni because you hold the key to our past, and in order to continue with our future we must know where we have come from.



Above: Members of AFST at Homecoming.
Winners of the Tricycle Race

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We're on the Web!
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"Accept the Challenge"

Officers:

President

William Jacob Tabor

Vice President

Edward Kofoed

Secretary

Crystal Blackwell

Treasurer

Patrick "Pork chop" Drottter

Committees:

Alumni Relations

Abigail Boeing

Engine 5

Paul Hawkins

Paraphernalia

Jacob Warren

Training

Steven Sulcov

Website

Andrew Blevins

Athletics

Ross Marsh

Service

Dean Hill

Prevention

Collin Wellsandt

Online

Caleb Armbrust

SFPE

Josh Reichert

Homecoming 2008

We again have continued the tradition of teaming up with the Kappa Delta Tau's and were able to maintain our strong hold on having the best homecoming float in the homecoming parade. This year we again made a float that moved and provided an adequate theme to making the animation of the Colonel Kicking the panther.



Above: Members of AFST & KDT at Homecoming with the float! First Place!

The Alumni golf outing was a good time for all who attended, even though the weather did not cooperate. The winners were Ryan Adkins, Wade Munday, Zach Vorel, and Corey May. They each received a polo for this accomplishment.

The Alumni Banquet was a success with raffle baskets, and a corn hole board was also raffled off. John Russ was the winner of the corn hole boards and graciously donated them to AFST to be used at tailgatings and get togethers. We are very thankful to him for doing this and the boards will definitely be used through the years to come. Thank you for all of those who attended, I hope it was a fun and memorable time!



Above: 2008 Homecoming Float



Left: Members of AFST with the Brentwood, Tennessee Fire Department for a Training.

Below: Members of AFST and Richmond Co-Ops at a training



