



## **Mass Fatalities Incident Response Planning Course Faculty/Staff Biographies Independence, Missouri April 4-8, 2005**

**Lisa LaDue** is Director of the National Mass Fatalities Institute. She is a co-founder of the National Mass Fatalities Institute and co-author of the "Mass Fatalities Incident Response Plan," which is the foundation of the curriculum for the Institute. Lisa has also co-authored two articles in a special edition of *Journal of Military Medicine* that focused on the disaster mental health response to the attack on the Pentagon in September 2001.

Lisa holds a master's degree in social work and is an Iowa-licensed independent social worker with advanced training and education in family therapy, disaster mental health, traumatic stress and Somatic Experiencing. She has been providing clinical social work and mental health services to individuals, families, groups, and communities that have been impacted by disasters and traumatic events for 30 years. Lisa has lectured internationally on topics related to trauma, terrorism, and disaster planning.

She has responded to major disasters in Puerto Rico, Guam, North Carolina and Iowa. After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Lisa spent four weeks as a disaster mental health coordinator for Red Cross services at the Pentagon and the Pentagon Family Assistance Center. In November 2001, she functioned as a disaster mental health coordinator with an American Red Cross Service Center on New York City's Staten Island. Lisa recently returned from a three week assignment with the Foundation for Human Enrichment's Trauma Outreach Program, providing trauma intervention services following the tsunami in Thailand.

**Dennis McGowan** is Assistant Director of the National Mass Fatalities Institute. Dennis recently retired as Chief of Operations for the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office in Atlanta, Georgia. He was Chief Investigator for the Medical Examiner's Office prior to this position. He is an experienced medical-legal investigator and emergency response program manager. Dennis was a firefighter in New England during the 1970s and worked in the New Jersey Medical Examiner's Office for 11 years.

Dennis has over 25 years of fatality/mass fatality management experience and disaster mitigation planning, training, and response including coordination of the mass fatality planning for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. He has worked at numerous mass fatality incidents including Egypt Air in 1999 and the World Trade Center attacks and American Air 587 in 2001. He also participated in TopOff and TopOff 2 preparedness exercises. Dennis has specialized training and experience in terrorism response and weapons of mass destruction incident planning and mitigation. With his experience and knowledge, Dennis has traveled throughout the United States and internationally as a presenter and instructor.

**Alexandre Duarte** holds a degree in Physical Education and is a Certified Rolfer and Somatic Experience Practitioner. Currently, his private practice involves continuing work with trauma healing; including cases such as rehabilitation, recovery from accidents, pre and post surgery, etc. As an educator, he has been working with children since 1987, and integrates his knowledge of child development with his skills as a somatic therapist. Alexandre is a Trauma Outreach Program Team Member for the Foundation of Human Enrichment that recently traveled to Thailand to work with victims and family members affected by the Tsunami Disaster. He presently lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Jack Herrmann** earned his master's degree in counseling, family and work life studies from the University of Rochester and is a national certified counselor. In February 2004, Mr. Herrmann was appointed the Coordinator of the Center for Disaster Medicine and Emergency Preparedness at the University of Rochester Medical Center. He is also Assistant Professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and Assistant Professor of clinical nursing at the University of Rochester School of Nursing.

Jack has been an active disaster volunteer with the American Red Cross for the past 10 years. He currently serves as the volunteer NYS Disaster Mental Health Lead for that organization. Mr. Herrmann has responded to numerous local, state, and national disasters including, the Northridge California Earthquake (1994), the explosion of TWA Flight 800 (1996), Hurricane Georges (1998), and Hurricane Floyd (1999). Most recently he served as the American Red Cross mental health coordinator for the New York City Family Assistance Center during the first 11 days following the attacks on the World Trade Center (2001).

Prior to his appointment with the Center for Disaster Medicine and Emergency Preparedness, Jack served as the Coordinator of the University of Rochester Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide for 14 years and was a practicing mental health clinician specializing in the treatment of suicide survivors and others who experienced traumatic events.

**Michael D. McCunniff, DDS, MS** is an Associate Professor at UMKC School of Dentistry. Dr. McCunniff has been active in Forensic Odontology for 25 years with the School of Dentistry and Jackson County Medical Examiner's office. He has presented nationally at the American Academy of Forensic Odontology Annual meetings. He is also active with MERIT (Missouri's Emergency Response Identification Team) at the state level and DMORT (Disaster Mortuary Operation Response Team) Region VII at the Federal level.

**Eddie Neal** has over 24 years experience in the commercial Department of Energy nuclear industry, which includes 14 years of vocational evaluation and instruction. He has designed and conducted HAZWOPER, Radiological Worker, and other environmental/health and safety courses for the Savannah River Site, the Oak Ridge Reservation, and numerous Department of Energy sites. Neal holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Arkansas Tech University.

Currently, Neal is a research associate with the University of Tennessee, Energy, Environment and Resources Center (EERC), Technology Research and Development Program. Additionally, he serves as the Radiological Worker Training course coordinator for Technical and Field Engineering Inc. in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is certified as a HAZWOPER instructor by the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI), Kirkwood Community College.

**Dan Silverman**, an associate at DFI Government Services, is Director of Outreach for *Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov)*. Prior to joining DFI, Mr. Silverman was director of Congressional Relations for the Center for Middle East Peace & Economic Cooperation. He also worked for two years as a staff reporter covering the Pentagon for the daily Japanese newspaper, Asahi Shimbun. Mr. Silverman received an MA in International Affairs from the School of International Service at American University in Washington, D.C., and a BA in Political Science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

"*Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov)* is the Department of Homeland Security's national network of Lessons Learned and Best Practices for emergency response providers and homeland security officials. This session will provide an introduction to and interactive tour of the *Lessons Learned Information Sharing* system."

**Lee J. Sweat, Jr.** is an inspector for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). He has been with GBI for 25 years. Lee's other experience includes 15 months as a Uniformed Police Office in Dublin, Georgia and two years as a Military Police Investigator. Lee served as Supervisor of the Mortuary/Recovery efforts for the Albany Flood of 1994 and served in 2002 as Tri-State Crematory Recovery Site Supervisor.

Lee's educational background includes University of Georgia, Georgia Southern University, Columbus State University and GACP Law Enforcement Command College. He has received over 3000 hours of Law Enforcement related training and is certified as a Basic Emergency Medical Technician.

Lee is a voting member of Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and is Chair of the Probable Cause Committee. Lee lectures nationally on Mass Fatality Recovery Issues.

**Ken Thompson**, as Director of External Affairs for the Oklahoma City National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism, is responsible for education, outreach, and assisting the Institute in its mission to prevent terrorism or mitigate its effects. Prior to his role with the Institute, Ken served as general manager for the Oklahoma City Auto Collection in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where he administered sales, finance, service, parts, and accounting. Since April 19, 1995, Ken has been an active participant in the planning, establishment and construction of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the Museum, and the Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism.

As a family member, Ken has first-hand experience of the effects of terrorism in our world today. His activities have included serving as a board member of the Oklahoma City National Memorial, serving on several committees at the Oklahoma City National Memorial, and serving as a founding member of the Institute's advisory committee. Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Ken volunteered time in New York and was instrumental in guiding New York City leaders through a process for family members and survivors to begin dealing with the long-term effects of the tragedy. Ken was selected by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and the A&E Television Network and Biography to receive the 2002 Biography Community Hero Award for the City of New York due to his outstanding service in the months following September 11, 2001.

**William H. (Bill) Young** is the Team Commander for DMORT, Region VII. Bill has been a member of DMORT, Region VII since 1993, Administrative Officer, and Deputy Team Leader, DMORT, Region VII, 1998-2004, and was appointed commander, Region VII in February 2004. His deployments while with DMORT, Region VII have included The Hardin Cemetery Flood of 1993, North Carolina Flood, Tarboro, North Carolina,

Korean Airline Crash, Guam, World Trade Center Attack, New York, 2001 (6 deployments) and the American Airlines Crash, Kirksville, Missouri, 2004. He received a Contribution Award from National Commander Thomas Shepardson for response to 9-11-2001. He is President of Maple Hill Funeral Home, Kansas City, Kansas and Funeral Director/Embalmer for Kansas and Missouri. He has been the Disaster Chairman for Kansas Funeral Director's Association since 1995. Bill received a Commendation for Outstanding Service NDMS in February 1994.

### Support Staff

**Ann Bates** serves the National Mass Fatalities Institute as Office Associate. Ann works with the Director and the Training/Operations Manager in course registration and the preparation of all Mass Fatalities Incident Response Planning on-site courses. She is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office and is the friendly voice you are most likely to reach when calling the institute.

**Pamela Edwards** is Semantic Web Librarian for the National Mass Fatalities Digital Library. This comprehensive database offers plans and information via the Internet for communities responding to and recovering from a mass fatalities incident. Pam brings to this position 26 years experience in research, information management, and collection management. She holds a BA in history and an MA in American studies. She was records manager and librarian for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, and Director of the Belton Public Library, Belton, Texas. She was also slide librarian for the Art Department, University of Texas at Arlington.

**Brad Ransford** serves the National Mass Facilities Institute as Course Logistical Support Technician/Equipment Technician. He assists the Director and the Training/Operations Manager in equipment preparation and maintenance. Brad currently serves as the Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Robins and serves on the Linn County Regional Hazardous Materials Team.

**Scott Ransford** also serves the National Mass Facilities Institute as a member of the Course Logistical Support Staff. He works with the Course Logistical Support Technician/Equipment Technician.