

# DRC DISPATCH

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Dear DRC Alums and Friends,

We're sending a somewhat abbreviated *Dispatch* to let you know what we've been up to over the last few months. But first, we know that many of our friends and colleagues have experienced terrible weather over this time, ranging from devastating flooding to paralyzing ice storms to relentless snow. We hope that you are holding up well with these challenges, and that the rest of this year will be one of quietude and a chance to recover and reorient.

We began this year on a sad note with the sudden loss of Bill Anderson, our good friend, colleague, mentor, and DRC alum. We will all miss his guidance, his humor, and his wisdom. Several of us from DRC, accompanied by longtime DRC friend Joe Scanlon, attended the memorial and celebration of life service for Bill, held in Silver Spring, Maryland on March 22. It was an event marked by sadness but also by the knowledge that so many of Bill's friends and colleagues were there to celebrate his many achievements.



We are looking forward to the DRC 50th Anniversary Workshop and Celebration! Check out the conference website ([sites.udel.edu/DRC50thanniversary](http://sites.udel.edu/DRC50thanniversary)) to see the program. In addition to commemorating the founding of DRC, the goal of the workshop is to push some boundaries and to get us all thinking about hazard and disaster a little differently. Speakers will include scholars from the "canonical" disaster areas as well as from Science, Technology, and Society, engineering, environmental studies, and implementation science. In addition, since we know everyone will have strong views on matters (!), we'll have an interactive forum site set up for on-going commenting and blogging throughout the workshop.

Apart from workshop preparations, the past few months have been a busy time for us, with both ongoing projects and inaugurating some new ones. We also managed to fit in a bit of down-time, including the annual DRC holiday party and traditional gift exchange.

We are hoping to see you at the Workshop, but in the meantime, good wishes for a happy Spring.

Sincerely,  
Jim Kendra

## IN MEMORY OF BILL ANDERSON

We were shocked and saddened by the unexpected loss of William A. Anderson, known fondly to us as Bill, who passed away in Hawaii while on vacation. As one of the early graduates of DRC, Bill's long and productive career spanned the 50-year history of the organized study of disaster. He was well-known to us all, though we knew him in different persona as friend, mentor, and intellectual leader of this field for many years.



Bill's work on the Alaska Earthquake set the standard for later DRC field studies, inaugurating the tradition of quick-response fieldwork at DRC and elsewhere. Bill's first job after DRC was at Arizona State University, where he enjoyed a spectacular and rapidly-promoted career. Bill was a well-established scholar at the time he left ASU for his position as a program manager at the National Science Foundation. There he laid the foundation for what we now recognize as today's mature disaster field, with a well-established funding program in the NSF Engineering Directorate. At the time Bill arrived at NSF, there was little hazards-oriented social science research being funded at the agency; most such research was in the engineering and physical sciences. Bill capitalized on an accelerated interest in interdisciplinary work that was germinating in the areas of earthquake risk and seismic safety, especially relating to risk perception and public tolerance and acceptance of mitigation measures. As Dennis Wenger stated bluntly but with enthusiasm for Bill's influence, "If you have received an NSF grant at any time, you should thank Bill for that support. Bill created and institutionalized the research program. Its continuation is a testimony to

him." His influence was far reaching, owing to his role at NSF, including the competitions that led to the National Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (NCEER), and then later the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research Center (PEER), the Multidisciplinary Center for Earthquake Engineering Research (MCEER), and the Mid-America Earthquake Center (MAE Center).

To the senior scholars of our field, Bill was a close friend, mentor, confidant, and trusted advisor. For the most junior scholars, and for those still to enter the field, Bill's was a name cited with reverence in any number of publications. We all

owe a special debt to the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute whose wonderful oral history, written by Robert Reitherman, allowed us a more personal look at an individual who many, especially scholars early in their careers, would have known mainly as a titan of the field. How else would we have learned that Bill took up rollerblading just a few years ago? His high energy and relish for adventure and fresh experiences benefited us all, because these characteristics led Bill to the various important positions he held in a number of organizations in addition to the National Science Foundation, such as the World Bank and the National Academy of Sciences.

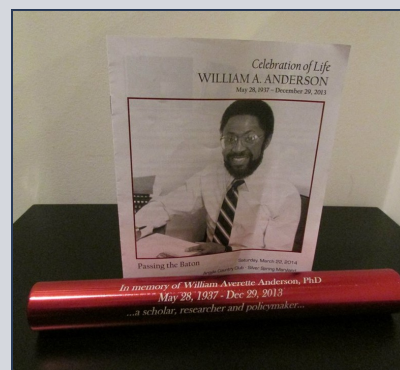
We offer our thanks to Bill's wife Norma, daughter Candice, and their family for organizing and hosting a memorial for Bill on March 22nd in Silver Spring, Maryland. There friends and colleagues from years past and more recently gathered to remember Bill with stories, pictures, music, and memorabilia from Bill's research and travels. It was a time to reconnect and to reflect. We'll all miss Bill, but we will also remember his many achievements that built and advanced our field.

The William Averette Anderson Fund ([www.billandersonfund.org](http://www.billandersonfund.org)) has been established in his name.

"Contributions to this fund will be used to promote study, by earth scientists, engineers, practitioners and social scientists whose focus is mitigating the impacts of disasters and hazards upon vulnerable and underserved populations in the United States."



Long-time friends and colleagues of William Anderson join Norma Anderson at the memorial.



Passing the baton in memory of William Anderson.

# DISASTER RESEARCH CENTER'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

April 30-May 03, 2014

DRC 50th Anniversary

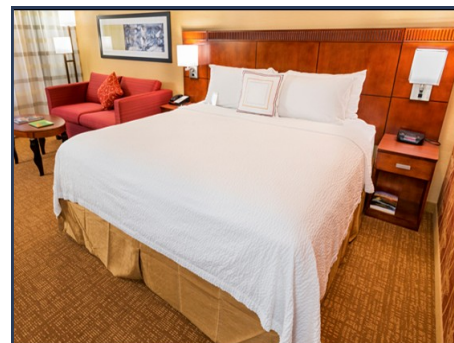
Workshop & Celebration at the

University of Delaware!!!!

Please go to the DRC workshop registration website:

<http://sites.udel.edu/drc50thanniversary/>

Have you booked your room for the 50th anniversary workshop yet? Pictured is a sample room at the Courtyard Marriott at the University of Delaware. The primary hotel is actually a learning laboratory for students in the college's Department of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management. Alternate hotels are available on the workshop registration website, but book soon!



## HOLIDAY PARTY!



Anhua Yang and James Kendra

The Disaster Research Center celebrated the holidays with family and friends.

James Goetschius and Nikki Goetschius



Elvena Fong and Ray Chang



Future DRC Researchers



## SABBATICAL IN NEW ZEALAND



Rachel Davidson's sabbatical in Christchurch NZ continues to be a productive one. In September, she gave a seminar presentation titled "Modeling Natural Disaster Risk Management: Integrating the Roles of Insurance and Retrofit and Multiple Stakeholder Perspectives" to the Department of Civil and Natural Resources Engineering at the University of Canterbury. She also participated in a World Bank/EERI/NZSEE (New Zealand Society of Earthquake Engineers) visit to Christchurch to study efforts to build back better as part of the earthquake recovery.

## INFO TO KNOW

In October, Spencer Schargorodski, current Emergency Management Specialist at the United States Army Corps of Engineers (and former DRC and sociology undergraduate student), gave a great talk to a group of undergraduate and graduate students about career opportunities in emergency and environmental management. Thank you to DISA student Zephi Francis for organizing this event!



## PRESENTATIONS

**Rachel Davidson** attended the New Zealand National Lifelines Week in Christchurch, New Zealand, from December 2-6, 2013. She gave a presentation entitled "Optimal Seismic Mitigation Program Design for Infrastructure System Networks."

**James Kendra** participated in two panels at the 4th Conference on Community Resiliency in Davos, Switzerland, sponsored by the Global Risk Forum and Virginia Tech University. His talks included "Regional Challenges to Building Resilience" in the session on "Translating National Strategies to Practice" and "Environmental Crisis and the Transformation of Environmental Norms" in the concluding session on "Governance and Resiliency."

**Eric Stern** recently gave a keynote presentation at the OECD/Swiss Federal Government Strategic Crisis Management workshop in Geneva. His talk was titled "Challenges of Crisis Sensemaking: From Warning to Response." His presentation can be accessed through the conference website. <http://www.oecd.org/gov/risk/2ndworkshoponstrategiccrisismanagement.htm>



**Joe Trainor** presented on "The Potential Role of Research in Improving Business Continuity Planning and Operations" to the Association of Contingency Planners First State Chapter.

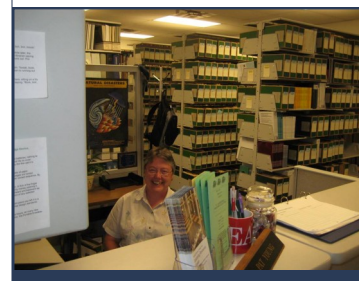
**Joe Trainor** attended the "Transforming Mitigation Awareness into Action" meeting in South Carolina. The meeting was hosted by Travelers Insurance, The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, and The Wharton School.

**Tricia Wachtendorf** gave a keynote presentation on Chronic Technical Disasters and Perspectives on Recovery for Fukushima Prefecture at the workshop at Tokyo Kasei University. Prior to the workshop, she spent time in affected communities in Iwate and Fukushima Prefecture.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the E. L. Quarantelli Resource Collection contains the world's most complete collection on the social and behavioral science aspects of disasters? Have an article, thesis, report or preliminary paper you want included among the more than 60,000 items? Visiting scholars from around the world make use of the collection year round. If you have disaster-related material you would like to include in the collection, we would love to have it. Please contact Pat Young, Resource Collection Coordinator, for more information at [pyoung@udel.edu](mailto:pyoung@udel.edu).



## PUBLICATIONS

**Benigno Aguirre** recently had a coauthored publication in *Latin America Politics and Society* focused on “Commemorating Chile’s Coup: The Dynamics of Collective Behavior.”

**Benigno Aguirre** and former DRC students **Eric Best** and **Kimberly Gill** (as well as **Sheif El-Tawil** and **Vladimir Fedorov**) had a book chapter, “Contributions of Social Science to Agent Based Models of Building Evacuation,” published in Routledge’s “*Crowds in the 21st century: Perspectives from Contemporary Social.*” The book was developed out of a previously published journal special issue.

Available online at <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415635905/>

**Joe Trainor** has coauthored a publication in the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*: “Individual and Household Response to Tornadoes” along with **Michael Lindell** and **Dan Sutter**.

**Tricia Wachtendorf** and DRC alumna **Bethany Brown** (as well as **Jose Holguin-Veras**) have a new article “Catastrophe Characteristics and Their Impact on Critical Supply Chains: Problematizing Material Convergence and Management Following Hurricane Katrina” in the *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*.

**Tricia Wachtendorf** has a coauthored article—with RPI colleagues **Jose Holguin-Veras** and **Miguel Jaller**—in a Transportation Research Board Publication. The article focuses on “Improving Postdisaster Humanitarian Logistics: Three Key Lessons from Catastrophic Events.”

Available online at <http://www.trb.org/main/blurbs/169548.aspx>

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## DRC IN THE NEWS

**Deborah Alvarez** and **Tricia Wachtendorf** were quoted in a *UD Research* article on trauma and writing.

Available online at [http://www.udel.edu/researchmagazine/issue/vol4\\_no2/disaster.html](http://www.udel.edu/researchmagazine/issue/vol4_no2/disaster.html)

**James Kendra** was quoted in an October 27th *News Journal* article on rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy.

Available online at <http://www.delawareonline.com/story/tech/science/environment/2013/10/27/money-limitations-lead-many-to-rebuild-in-place-after-sandy/3258047/>

**James Kendra** and **Scott Knowles** were quoted in an *Al Jazeera* article discussing resiliency after Hurricane Sandy.

Available online at <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/10/29/after-sandy-resiliencyforsomemeansrebuildingsomewhereelse.html>

**Joanne Nigg** was quoted in an *Atlanta Journal - Constitution* article on SnowJam 2014.

Available online at <http://www.ajc.com/weblogs/get-schooled/2014/feb/02/investigations-begin-no-children-died-or-were-even/>

**Tricia Wachtendorf** was quoted in a *US News and World Report* article on research after Hurricane Sandy and which highlights an NSF collaborative grant with **Rachel Davidson** and colleagues at other institutions.

Available online at <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/10/30/a-year-after-sandy-research-focuses-on-the-social-impact-of-disasters>

**Tricia Wachtendorf** was cited in an NBC news article on FEMA administrator Craig Fugate.

Available online at <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/old-fema-gone-craig-fugates-cleaned-fema-v20578618>

## GRANTS

DRC is part of a team that was recently awarded a grant from DHHS to study post-Sandy resilience in NYC.

Working on the project are, from DRC: Jim Kendra, Joe Trainor, Joanne Nigg, and Benigno Aguirre; from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health: Jonathan Links, Norma Kanarek, Brian Schwartz, Takeru Igusa, and Natalie Semon; and from NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Sarah Sisco, Ingrid Gonzalez, and Marc Jean. This collaborative effort involves building on the JHU/DRC theoretical model of community resilience (CoPE-WELL) which will guide the gathering of local data for representation in a systems dynamics model and ultimately point to potential interventions that could guide planning and bolster resilience in NYC.

## OUTREACH TO PRE-K, LOWER, AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

DRC faculty have had a great time talking to children about disasters, disaster research, and emergency preparedness. Tricia Wachtendorf had the chance to meet with Wilmington JCC Pre-K students during community helper week, talking about what a disaster researcher does and what goes into a disaster supply kit. Joe Trainor met with another great group of students examining tornado warnings.

Students across the region are rocking the Nature's Fury theme of Lego League this year, Tricia Wachtendorf met with a great group of students from schools around the area who are working as a team examining hurricane preparedness, response, and recovery. This was a great chance for the students to learn about recent research on hurricanes as they narrow their focus.



Joe Trainor hosted the Wizards of CV (core values) at the DRC. The wizards are a middle school first Lego robotics team working on warning system enhancement as part of the 2013 competition theme "Nature's Fury." The team presented their proposal and Trainor provided feedback on the project's feasibility given behavioral research, forecast capabilities, and current warning system practice and policy. The students did a great job!

## OPEN HOUSE

In July, ERWG (UD's Emergency Response Working Group) hosted a First Responder Open House for representatives from Aetna Fire Company to visit the collections at DRC, University Archives, and the Mineralogical Museum in Penny Hall. The purpose of the open house was to provide local first responders with an opportunity to view collections and collection spaces in advance of an emergency situation to familiarize them with potential hazards and priority salvage items. This photo shows DRC Resource Collection Coordinator Pat Young (and current ERWG chair) discussing the DRC collection space and materials with local EMS Deputy Chief Arman Fardanesh.



## QUICK RESPONSE TRAINING



On Friday Nov 8th, DRC faculty Jim Kendra, Tricia Wachtendorf, Joe Trainor and assistant to the director Vicky Becker participated in panel discussions on quick response research. This training for almost 30 participants was organized by the UD IAEM student chapter. Kudos to Samantha Penta, Lauren Clay, and James Goetschius for organizing the day long event.

## STUDENT CAREERS!

DRC and DISA MS graduate **Erik Archibald** has accepted a position as staff engineer at Applied Research Associates in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He will work as an engineer to mitigate blast and hurricane risks.

Former DRC Graduate Research Assistant and DISA Graduate **Eric Best** accepted a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor of Emergency Management at Jacksonville State University starting August 16th.

Recent DRC and Civil Engineering PhD graduate **Susan Brink** started a post-doc position in causal loss analysis at the Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany.

DRC alum **William Donner** recently joined University of Texas Pan American (UTPA) Sociology faculty and will also join former DRC Director **Havidan Rodriguez** and DRC friend Walter Diaz at UTPA in the development of a new disaster studies graduate program.

Former DRC and Sociology undergraduate student **Kristin Dukes** started a paid internship in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with Innovative Emergency Management. Her concentration is in emergency and environmental management.

DRC Post-Doctoral researcher and Sociology Alum **Kimberly Gill** accepted a new position as an Assistant Professor in the Disaster Medicine and Management program at Philadelphia University starting August 15th.

DISA MS graduate and former DRC Graduate Research Assistant **Jennifer Lazo** accepted a position as Emergency Services Coordinator for the City of Berkley in California.

DRC Research Assistant and DISA PhD Candidate **Danielle Nagele** was appointed as NOAA'S new Social Scientist at the Office of Program Planning and Integration. She will provide direct support to the NOAA Chief Economist/Social Scientist, Assistant Administrator, and NOAA Senior Leadership with social science analyses for policy and programmatic decision making.

Sociology and DRC alum **Marcia Nickle** accepted a new position with the Maryland Emergency Management Agency in their Training and Exercise Unit.



## STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**Susan Brink** defended her PhD dissertation "Framework for a Comprehensive Assessment of a City's Natural Disaster Risk with a Case Study for Earthquake Risk in Padang, Indonesia."



**Lauren Clay** successfully defended her PhD dissertation proposal "Influence of Community Social Institutions on Individual Disaster Recovery."



**Ryan Burke** defended his PhD dissertation proposal titled "Contingency Dual Status Command: Maturity Missions in the Homeland Through Process Improvement Modeling."



**Juan Camillo Sanchez Gil** successfully defended his dissertation proposal "Food Aid Distribution During Disaster Response and Short Term Recovery: Enhancing Performance of Heterogeneous Humanitarian Logistics Structures."

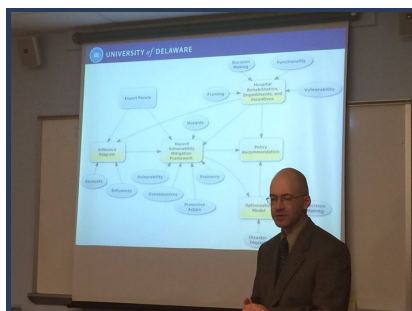


**Anne Goodman** successfully defended her Master's thesis proposal on "Sea-Level Rise Awareness and Community Engagement in the Bethany Beach Area of Delaware."

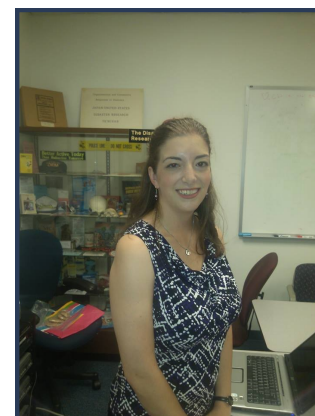
**Alex Greer** successfully defended his PhD dissertation proposal "Resettlement after a Disaster: Case Studies from Hurricane Sandy."



**James Goetschius** successfully defended his PhD dissertation "Improving Hospital Survivability: Tools to Inform Hospital Planning and Design."



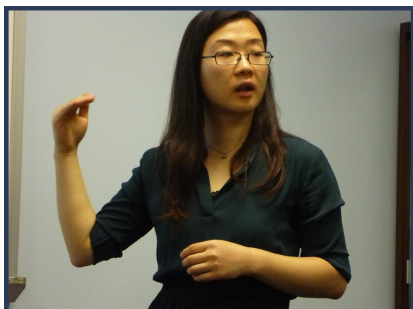
**Jennifer Lazo** successfully defended her Master's thesis "Framing Disaster Planning for People with Disabilities: Analyzing the CALIF v. City of Los Angeles Lawsuit."





## STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

**Chunjing Liu** successfully defended her Master's thesis proposal. Her proposal was titled "Measuring Social Vulnerability of Chinese Coastal Counties to Environmental Hazards."



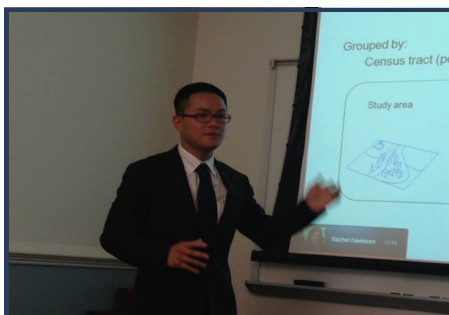
**Samantha Penta** successfully defended her Master's thesis "The Value of Preparedness: Organizational Culture and Preparedness in Delaware Nursing Homes."



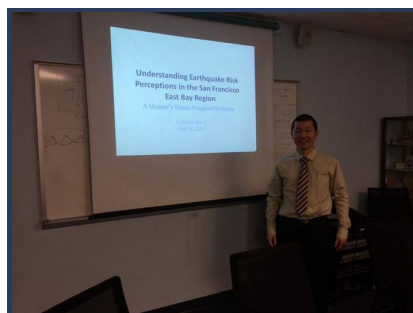
**Eva Wilson** successfully defended her Master's thesis "Lessons Learned the Hard Way: Incident Command System Learning and Training."



**Jiazen Peng** defended his PhD dissertation "Modeling Natural Disaster Risk Management: Integrating the Roles of Insurance and Retrofit and Multi Stakeholder Perspectives."



**Yi Victor Wang** successfully defended his Master's thesis proposal "Understanding Earthquake Risk Perceptions in the San Francisco East Bay Area."



**Daryl Yoder-Bontrager** successfully defended his Master's thesis proposal "Nongovernmental Organizations and Coordination: A Complex Adaptive Systems View."



## NOTABLE DISTINCTIONS

**Hans Louis-Charles**, DRC and DISA PhD student, participated in the inaugural Black Doctoral Network Conference held in Philadelphia on Oct. 3-5, 2013.

The conference, which had the theme “Scholarship, Service and Community,” attracted more than 350 attendees from across the country, including current graduate students, faculty, administrators and professionals in the social sciences; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and the humanities. The event provided a space for intellectual exchange and a place to create connections and develop collaborations.



Pictured are (from left) Hans Louis-Charles, UD doctoral student in Disaster Science and Management; Edward Smith, UD doctoral student in Urban Affairs and Public Policy; keynote speaker Julianne Malveaux; and Lemir Teron, doctoral student in Energy and Environmental Policy.



Congratulations to former DRC and DISA student **Jennifer Lazo**, who presented her thesis research "Framing Disaster Planning for People with Disabilities: Analyzing the CALIF v City of Los Angeles Lawsuit" at the IAEM meeting in Reno. She was awarded first place in the poster competition!

## WHO'S VISITING THE DRC NOW?

### Beatrice Gatto-

My name is Beatrice Gatto and I am from Ancona, the capital of the Marche Region in East-Central Italy. I have a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences and Emergency Management and a Master's degree in Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Management.

Currently I am a second year doctoral student at Università Politecnica delle Marche, and I'm staying at the DRC as a visiting scholar from November until May. My research assesses the impacts of the shift from the medical to the social model of disability in the context of global policies, both within public administration institutions and within care facilities. Results of my study will help to define guidelines that could facilitate the inclusion of people with functional and access needs in the context of emergency management. Specifically, I am working with James Kendra to understand the US National and State policies on emergency preparedness and to conduct studies in US nursing homes in order to analyze their preparedness-related challenges during an emergency or disaster and their emergency planning process. I hope that my work will provide a significant contribution to the emergency preparedness in the Italian context.

Staying at the DRC is therefore an amazing opportunity to grow and learn and is pushing me professionally and intellectually. I am honored to have access to the E.L. Quarantelli Resource Collection and to talk with all the people working at DRC about different and always interesting research perspectives. Moreover, I look forward to participating in classes during the spring semester. I am sure I will find them beneficial for my research.

Finally, I would like to thank all the DRC family for their friendship and for giving me this important opportunity.



## WHO'S VISITING THE DRC NOW?

Anhua Yang-

Anhua Yang is a Visiting Scholar at the DRC specializing in the study of risk analysis and disaster management. His master's degree is in economic history from the Yunnan University, and his PhD is in public administration from Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

He is an associate professor in the School of Politics and Law, Jiangsu Normal University and a Post-Doctoral Researcher in the School of Government Management at Nanjing University in China.

His research interests focus on emergency management in local government, privatization, and managing the risks of outsourcing. His research and professional experiences over the last decade include: collaborative governance of public security, disaster history of China, and privatization in local government.



*"I hope that my work  
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**-Beatrice Gatto**

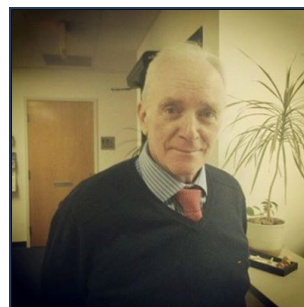
## VISITORS TO THE DRC



DRC was fortunate to host several groups of visitors over the fall semester. On Sept. 23rd, DRC welcomed Professors Farsijana and Bernard Adeney-Risakotta from Gadjah Mada University (Indonesia) and supervisors for Laila Alfirdaus, a PhD student at Gadjah Mada's Inter-Religious Studies, Indonesian Consortium for Religious Studies (ICRS) who spent the semester at DRC. Laila is conducting a study on disaster and social solidarity in Padang, West Sumatra after the 2009 earthquake.

From left: Professor Bernard Adeney-Risakotta, Professor Benigno Aguirre, Professor Tricia Wachtendorf, Laila Alfirdaus, and Professor Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta

Professor Joe Scanlon of Carleton University stopped by for several days to use the resource collection. During his visit, he presented on the 1917 Halifax explosion in Joe Trainor's "Overview of Disaster Science and Management" class.





## WELCOME NEW DISA STUDENTS



The Disaster Science and Management (DISA) program offers programs leading to master's and doctoral degrees. It is an interdisciplinary program that draws faculty from several different units including the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, the Department of Political Science and International Relations, the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, the School of Nursing, and the College of Marine Studies.

*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 spring!!*

*Best Regards, Gail Kracyla*

*Email: [prissy@udel.edu](mailto:prissy@udel.edu)*