**Abstract**

Many of the previous studies of students’ behavior in disasters are structured on statistical data analysis of students’ homogeneity, underestimating the subjectivity nature of the human element in the process, and neglecting the non-student groups within these communities. The main objective of this research is to identify characteristics of distinct subgroups within communities of institutions of higher education that make them less prepared than others, such as the cultural differences between domestic and international students in a disaster context, in order to improve the understanding of the college community social structure which will be reflected on improving the preexisting emergency communication to enhance the overall university disaster risk management, focusing particularly on hurricanes rather than any other severe weather hazard. The study will consider employees as well as students, since employees in institutions of higher education are usually studied in Mass-Violence studies and overlooked in disaster studies. In addition to analyzing factors of vulnerability for college community sub-groups, the research team will be studying the preparedness of the college community, the changes of stress levels among its members, and measure their satisfaction for the current hurricane alerting system during the last hurricane alert (Hurricane Dorian) during the first week of September, 2019, in order to improve the university emergency planning, and possibly achieve a customized communication methods for different groups within that community.

**Presenter Background**

Bachelor degree in Civil engineering

Master’s degree in Project management

Master’s degree in Operation management

**Experience:** 10 years of experience in the construction industry; Material Estimation, Detailing, Structural design, Steel Erection methodologies, Structural Maintenance, Project coordination, Project management. Trainer for courses in Team Building, Time Management, Structural Design. Worked in Jordan, KSA, Egypt, UAE, and USA.

Certified practitioner in project management from PMI (the American Project Management Institute)

Lifetime member at the ACHS (The American Association of College Honor Societies)

The owner of (BTG: Academic Reflection) website; an active academic blog.

**Currently:** PhD Student at DCP/Rinker School, and a Research Assistant for Professor Jason Von Meding at FIBER (Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience).

**Research interest:** Emergency Management in institutions of higher education in the U.S.