# Institutionalizing the Disaster Science and Management Program at Louisiana State University

**Barry D. Keim**
*PI, Prof in Dept. of Geog. & Anth., LA State Climatologist*

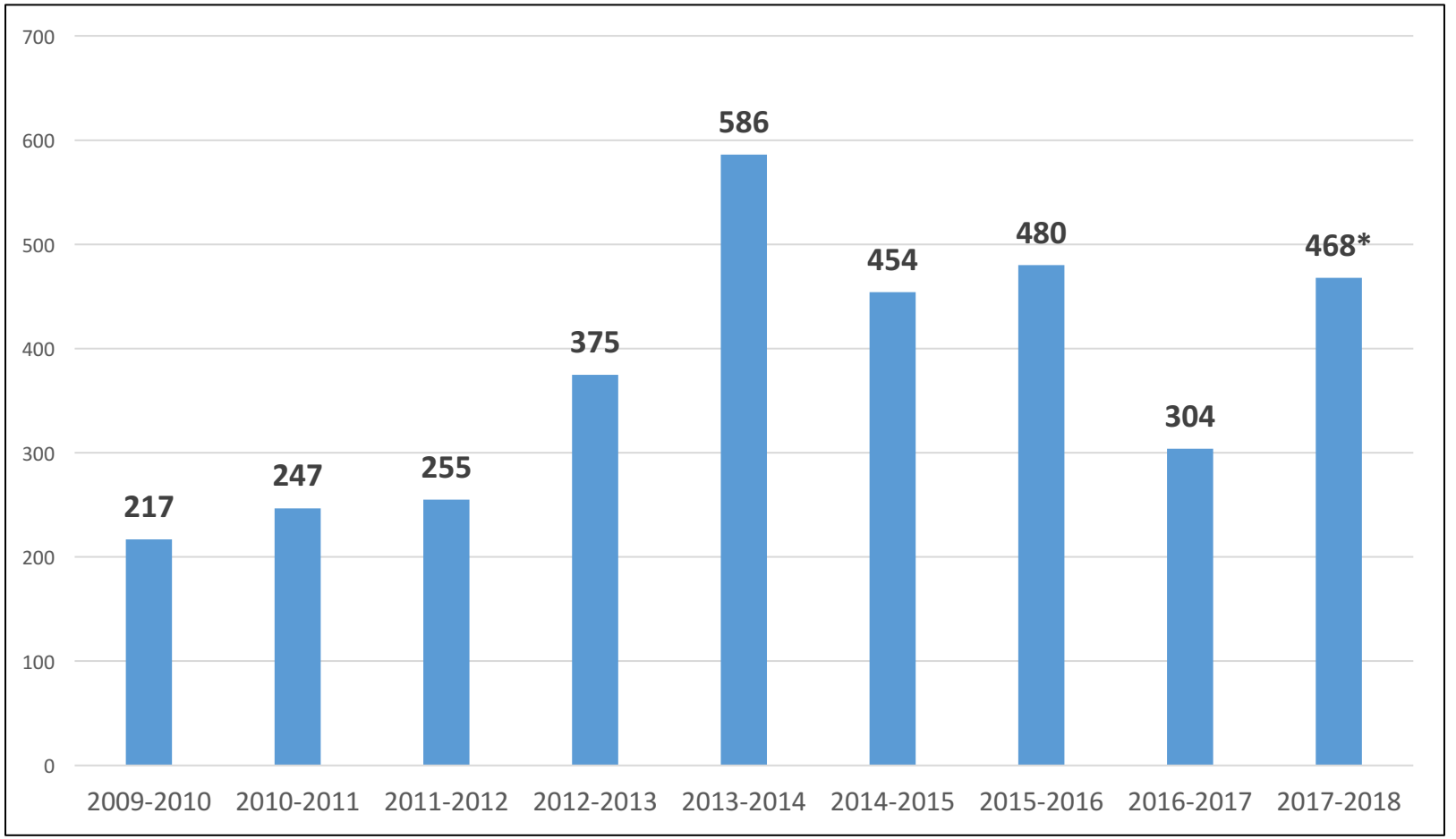
**Alan W. Black**
*Assistant Prof – Research in Dept. of Geog. & Anth.*
*Program Manager and Instructor for DSM Program*

LSU
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Disaster Science and Management Program at LSU

- Historical Overview
  - DSM began at LSU in 2002 – John Pine
  - Between 2002-2016, there were 3 Directors of the program
  - Prior to this grant, DSM at LSU has had no home Dept - interdisciplinary
  - Due to program instability, it was considered for elimination
  - Asked by Dean's Office to take it over – approved by Robert Whalin
  - We brought DSM into the Geog Degree Program

# Historical Enrollment



# History of DSM at LSU

- DSM first offered as an interdisciplinary minor in 2002-2003
  - Consisted of three core courses, elective DSM courses, and courses from other departments
  - Program not formally housed within any one department
  - Additional electives added in 2004-2005
- 2007-2008
  - Students able to earn B.A. in Liberal Arts w/ concentration in DSM
  - Number of electives grows – spanning 15 departments
- 2009-2010
  - First of several leadership transitions

# History of DSM at LSU

- 2010-2016
  - Program still not formally housed within any one department
  - Several transitions in program leadership
  - Course enrollment grows to near 600 students during the 2013-2014 academic year, but drops as leadership transitions continue
- 2016-present
  - DSM program integrated into Geography & Anthropology Dept.
  - Enrollment stabilized and **growing**!
  - 2017-2018 enrollment estimated to be second largest based on available records.

# Goals of Disaster Science and Management Program at LSU

- **Develop Concentration in DSM** within both the BA and BS degrees in Geog.
- **Develop a Minor in DSM** for students in other depts.
- **Build Internship Program** partnering with Emergency Mgmt. community
- **Participate in the SUMREX Program** with universities within consortium
  (Rudy Bartels – UNF with Resio, and Stephen Kreller – UNC with Brian Blanton)
- **Participate in Retalk** – Don Resio graced us in 2017
- **Train Students** to add to Homeland Security Enterprise Workforce

# DSM Curriculum for GEOG Concentration (BA or BS)

- **Core Courses – 12 hours**
  - **GEOG 2200:** Hazards, Disasters, and the Env (3)
  - **GEOG 2210:** Fundamentals of Emergency Mngt (3)
  - **GEOG 4200:** Hazard Risk Reduction (3)
- Students will select ONE of the following 3 Geospatial Techniques classes:
  - **GEOG 4044:** Computer Catography (3)
  - **GEOG 4045:** Env Remote Sensing (3)
  - **GEOG 4047:** GIS (3)

LSU General Catalog
Undergraduate and Graduate

# DSM Curriculum for Minor

Core Courses + 6 Elective Hours from the Following:

- **GEOG 3001:** Geog of Louisiana
- **GEOG 3013:** Meteorology
- **GEOG 4014:** Climatology
- **GEOG 4015:** Phys Climatology
- **GEOG 4018:** Geog Hydrology
- **GEOG 4022:** Geomorphology
- **GEOG 4029:** Coastal Res & Mngt
- **GEOG 4078:** Env and Development
- **GEOG 4221:** Tropical Atmos
- **GEOG 4997:** Global Change
- **GEOG 4995:** Internship
- **ANTH 4909:** Doing Oral History
- **ANTH 4090:** Ethnographic Mthds
- **ANTH 4997:** Env 'l Anth

# Lessons Learned

- Interdisciplinary program offers obvious benefits for students, but not without issues
  - At the mercy of course offerings in other departments
  - Much easier to recruit when you don't have to have a long explanation about how to earn a major/minor!
- Support from an academic department is critical
  - Without the administrative support to advocate on your behalf, it is difficult to get the resources needed to grow or even maintain the program.
  - Without a department to provide stability, it is difficult to sustain/grow the program as personnel change

# Making the Case

- At LSU, historical enrollment revealed demand for program
- DSM concentration students now make up a quarter of all geography undergraduate majors
- Drives enrollment to other departmental courses
- Introductory DSM courses generate credit hours for department

# Questions?