UPDATE
Things have started to somewhat calm down for the EFRT over the past month. We have selected 12 new team members who have completed the first half of their training, worked `shadow shifts` and are now starting to run as actual responders. We recently received our new automated external defibrillator (AED) and have trained all active responders on its use. On November 10th we celebrated 30 years of EFRT service with a 30th reunion dinner.

SERVICE USAGE

Over the months of September and October the EFRT has assessed and treated 228 patients. Of these patients we were able to divert 183 of them away from Hamilton EMS (181 treated and diverted to Urgent Care or treated and released by the EFRT). 45 of these patients have been required emergent transport via Hamilton EMS, and 2 of these patients were transported by the EFRT to MUMC. Our average response time was >3mins.

PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

We completed a successful orientation and try-out process with many of our alumni helping with evaluation and teaching of `candidates`. As mentioned previously the EFRT has selected 12 new members who completed the beginning of their training with alumni members on the weekend of October 20th. Finally we successfully celebrated our 30 year history on November the 10th with a dinner and reception. The event featured a keynote speech by EFRT founder and current medical director Dr. Eddie Wasser as well as a speech from S.Sgt. Cathy O’Donnell from McMaster Security Services and MC`d by former team members Dr Morgan Hillier and Kira Goodman. The reunion was successful in that it allowed us to remember our roots and ground us in the important role that we play here on campus.

UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

We are currently preparing to continue the new member training which will take place in January as well as our mid-year evaluations of our responders. Sophomore members of the team are also hard at work preparing for the International Trauma Life Support course
which they will attend in June. We are continuing to further our PR by becoming involved in as many MSU collaborative events as we can. We are also currently in the end stages of discussions with various EMS services throughout Ontario to organize observerships for our responders to gain more practical experience in emergency medicine.

BUDGET
As per the last report we are facing some slight challenges with our budget. Specifically the conferences and supplies budget. The majority of the supply budget was spent over the summer in an attempt to replace many supplies according to their schedule (Expiry Dates ranging every 2-5 years). This along with a high call volume and increases in pharmacy costs has lead to a severe drain on our supply budget (5315-0107) which may have to be evaluated as this is not an area where it is appropriate to be stingy. We also experienced a significant drain on our conferences budget (6201-0107) which was used to finalize plans for the “30 year reunion”. We met unexpected costs which were the result of miscommunications between the summer director, alumni association planner and myself. In light of this we had to spend much more than was initially expected of the EFRT. This will create potential challenges for us as we prepare to attend the Emergency Response conferences in February.

CURRENT CHALLENGES
As mentioned in the BUDGET section our challenges are within necessary spending from our 30 year reunion and supply replacement. It may be necessary to increase EFRT budget lines (5315-0107) and (6201-0107) as these were unexpected costs that come up very infrequently (e.g. every 5 years for a reunion)

SUCCESSES
The major success that we saw over the course of this reporting period was our “30 Year Reunion” which saw over 108 alumni coming back to celebrate our 30 year history. From all reports the event went over very well and alumni were appreciative of not only the gifts from the EFRT but also the opportunity to return and reminisce with people with histories dating back to the early 1980’s