Pictured with KyuJung Whang, Jack Sheevers, Maria Cimiluca, Tim Ceurter and Josh Onyan. Absent are David Roman, Tom Pawelko, and Joe Brand.

February 2014
Members of this winning team are David Roman, Tom Pawelko, Joe Brand, Tim Ceurter, and Jack Sheevers. When the power goes out alarms from all over campus go off at EMCS alerting them about the systems and equipment that have shut down. They in turn have to restart the system from their control center or send out staff to work on them.

On a normal day, in one hour, there are 13 alarms that come into EMCS – which stands for Emergency Management and Control Systems – which is located at the Chilled Water Plant on Beebe Lake. The primary functions of the EMCS are metering, monitoring, and interactive control: The "Bridge" is staffed 24/7/365 by at least one operator and the workstations are arranged so that, in the event of a major campus incident, a second operator can join in.

Monitoring is done both passively, by routinely observing system operation on an occasional basis, and actively, by responding to any of the more than 9,500 computer-generated alarms that are currently defined. In addition, operators can interactively make adjustments to binary and analog parameters DDC programs, and physical output points that control motorized fans, pumps, dampers, and valves.

When the power outage occurred on October 20, 2013 this winning team led the campus through a total of 1,677 alarms in a 10 hour period of time…. with as many as 977 alarms at the peak! If you think about it that is an amazing 167.7 alarms an hour that they managed.

The shift mechanics are sent out to restart and check building equipment, and there were a lot to check. There were a few obstacles slowing the progress of getting the power restored, not only was EMCS getting alarms their phone was bombarded with calls from concerned individuals from across campus, and staff were diverted from emergency recovery action to assist other mechanics with access to buildings. EMCS was able to identify the problem circuit prior to the arrival of the Central Zone line crew to aid in the identification of where the problem had occurred. Also very helpful to this team was having Customer Service to assist with the phone calls.