

Center for Public Safety Initiatives

Newsletter Fall/Winter 2010

www.rit.edu/cpsi
585.475.6386

Welcome to the first edition of the Center for Public Safety Initiatives newsletter. We will be keeping you updated on our funding, research projects and community involvement throughout the year. Our students are working diligently on locally relevant, community based research and we are proud to share their accomplishments with you.

We are always looking for way to serve the community with research and welcome any ideas. Please contact Kendell at kejgci@rit.edu or 585-475-6386 to speak about possible research opportunities. For a complete list of working papers outlining our research, visit www.rit.edu/cpsi.

The Center for Public Safety Initiatives is funded solely through grants and sponsorships; CPSI receives no funding through RIT. If you would like to support student research on local issues through CPSI please send a check to CPSI at RIT, Dept. of Criminal Justice RIT, 93 Lomb Drive, Rochester, NY 14623. All donations are tax deductible. If you would like to support a student research fellowship which would be named after you, another person or your business, please call Kendell at 585-475-6386.

Staff

John Klofas, Ph.D. - Director



CPSI is a community oriented research center directed by Dr. Klofas and staffed mostly by student researchers who get valuable experience and make significant contributions in the Greater Rochester Area. Klofas also teaches a variety of undergraduate and graduate courses at RIT and works with a number of community organizations. His research has focused on the problem of violence, management in criminal justice and community structure. His most recent book is entitled *The New Criminal Justice* with Natalie Hipple and Ed McGarrell.

Kendell Jones - Project Manager & Grant Coordinator



Kendell has as BS in Criminal Justice from RIT and is finishing her MS degree in Criminal Justice. She has been involved in Project Exile, Rochester Safe and Sound, Project Safe Neighborhoods, Project IMPACT and many community agencies in the greater Rochester area. Research interests include gangs, violent crimes, use of police K9's and human-animal interactions in correctional facilities. Kendell currently manages the grant funding for the CJ Department and oversees student research within CPSI.

Chris Delaney – Associate Director



Chris is the Director of Business Intelligence for the City of Rochester. He worked as an analyst since 2000, previously focusing on issues associated with gangs and violent crime. Currently, he focuses mostly on analyst management issues, strategic analysis, and administrative analysis. The Monroe Crime Analysis Center is responsible for analysis of crime and intelligence patterns/problems across Monroe County, NY, and is proud to be the first Analysis Unit with multiple IACA-certified analysts. Mr. Delaney holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice and an M.S. in Public Policy from Rochester Institute of Technology, where he is an Adjunct Lecturer in the CJ Department.

Janelle Duda – Research Associate



Janelle Duda is a Research Associate with the Department of Criminal Justice examining the medical costs associated with victims of violence, specifically shootings and stabbings. Janelle received her BSW from Xavier University and in 2006 she received her MSW from California State University, Long Beach, with a focus on children and families. Janelle has worked closely with Teen Empowerment, Partners in Restorative Initiatives, Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency Healthi Kids coalition, URM's Rochester Youth Violence Partnership, and the Judicial Process Commission. Her interests include youth issues, strategies to reduce community violence, and work with survivors of sexual assault.

Faculty

LaVerne McQuiller Williams



After graduating from RIT and law school, worked as an Assistant District Attorney in Rensselaer County, NY before joining the faculty in 1996. Teaches courses in evidence, women in crime, minorities in criminal justice, criminal law, and honors research. Also serves as the pre-law advisor. Research interests include intimate partner violence and therapeutic justice.

Judy Porter, Ph.D.



Dr. Porter received her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha, her Masters in Sociology from New Mexico State University, and her Bachelors in Sociology with an English Minor and a Criminal Justice emphasis from the University of Northern Colorado. Her research has included public housing concerns, elderly, and correctional programs.

Jason Scott, Ph.D.



Dr. Scott received his Ph.D. from the School of Criminal Justice at the University at Albany. His current research interests include community policing, social capital, and the role of criminal justice agencies and other civic institutions in community capacity building. His most recent published articles have appeared in *Police Quarterly* and the *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*. Dr. Scott currently teaches classes in law enforcement, crime and violence, criminal justice policy, and introduction to criminal justice.



John McCluskey, Ph.D.

Professor McCluskey's teaching and research focuses on the areas of policing, violence, and evaluation research. His most recent research efforts have focused on robbery in several jurisdictions as well as the effect of procedural justice on police-citizen encounters. Currently he is involved in an ongoing evaluation of violence reduction efforts in Detroit, MI. The application of criminal justice and criminology to everyday problems confronting criminal justice agencies and actors is at the core of his research agenda.



Jennifer Gravitz

Jennifer Gravitz is an attorney and a member of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf's support team. She provides support services to deaf and hard of hearing students in Criminal Justice. She also teaches legal research and other law related courses on a part-time basis and she provides advising and other services within the Department of Criminal Justice.



Chris Schreck

Dr. Schreck teaches courses in research methods, criminological theory, and juvenile justice. His research centers on figuring out whether and why the same processes that lead people to commit crime also make them more likely to be victims. He is the author of a dozen professional publications and is the editor of the *Journal of Crime and Justice*. He came to RIT after having taught at Illinois State University.



Cynthia Perez-McCluskey

Cynthia Perez McCluskey holds a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University at Albany, State University of New York. Her research interests include developmental criminology and issues related to Latinos and criminal justice. Recent publications have appeared in the *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* and the *Journal of Criminal Justice*. Dr. McCluskey teaches courses in the graduate and undergraduate programs, including criminal justice theory, domestic violence, and graduate research methods.



Tony Smith

We'd like to welcome new faculty member, Tony Smith to the Department of Criminal Justice!

Professor Smith's scholarship has appeared in *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, *Criminal Justice Studies*, *European Journal of Psychiatry*, *Deviant Behavior*, *International Journal of Comparative & Applied Criminal Justice*, and the *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*. Additionally, he has served as a professional consultant for the United Nations and law enforcement agencies on numerous criminal justice matters. Currently his research interests are control and strain theories, firearm violence and public policy analysis.

Student Researchers

Casey Burns, Research Assistant



Casey Burns is a fourth year Criminal Justice student. His research has focused on immigration and crime in the Rochester area as well as Utica, NY. Casey has looked at the influx of refugees in Utica and its affect on the local economy as something that could potentially be duplicated elsewhere. This past summer he participated in the Center for Student Innovation Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, where he focused on Rochester and how immigration may affect crime rates. He discovered that cultural differences play a bigger role than the actual movement of immigrants and migrants. In the future he plans to compare the 14621 zip code area to similar areas in the city as well as look at the correlation between vacant properties, immigrants, and migrants. He will also look into immigration and how people of other cultures may be less likely to report crimes and victimization.

Michelle Comeau, Research Assistant



A graduate student in the Criminal Justice Program at the Rochester Institute of Technology, Michelle Comeau is currently finishing her thesis on Police Recruitment and Retention in Rochester, NY. She attended RIT for her undergraduate studies as well, and holds Bachelor Degrees in both Psychology and Criminal Justice from the institution, where she graduated with honors. Upon completion of her thesis, Michelle intends to obtain a doctoral degree in Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. Her research has focused largely on the police hiring process, including applicant demographics and attrition.

Greg Drake, Research Assistant



Greg Drake graduated from North Rose-Wolcott High school in 2007. He recently graduated with honors from RIT with a degree in Criminal Justice and is currently in the graduate program for Criminal Justice. Past projects he has worked on include survey analysis, re-entry issues, and community issues. He plans to do work with RIT and local Rochester community organizations this coming year doing criminal justice and sociological research. Next year he plans on attending graduate school to obtain a Ph.D. in Criminology. In the future he would like to teach at a university, do research, and have the opportunity to affect criminal justice and general social public policy in the United States.

Tim Foran, Research Assistant



Tim Foran has a B.S. in criminal justice from RIT with a concentration in sociology and is currently pursuing his masters in criminal justice. He has worked with community members to reduce recidivism through vocational training and presently serves as the advisor to the Rochester Exploring in Forensic Science program. Tim's research interests and current projects include offender call-ins, action research, deterrence theory, and sustainable policing.

Jazzlyn Ivery-Robinson, Research Assistant



Jazzlyn Ivery-Robinson recently joined the CPSI team and has begun research with a focus on education. Last summer she examined urban suburban inter-district transfer programs nationally as well as the local Rochester transfer program. Jazzlyn specifically looked at the quality of education students received, transfer and voucher programs, and she conducted interviews with participants of the program. For the upcoming year she will specifically look at truancy within the school system and issues that could be improved on. She will be a third year Criminal Justice student working with the Center for first time in the school year so she hopes it'll be fun!



Eunice Mendoza, McNair Scholar Research Assistant

Eunice Mendoza is a senior International Studies major and her main research focus with the Center for Public Safety Initiatives is violence in Rochester's Latino community and the costs associated with it. Eunice is a McNair Scholar who joined CPSI last summer. In her future research she will look specifically at the 14621 zip code area and the cultural issues relevant to community violence. She is also President of the Latin American Student Association as well as the Cultural Director for the African American Latin American Native American Collegiate Association at Rochester Institute of Technology.



Peter Tran, Research Assistant

Peter Tran has a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and is currently pursuing a Masters of Science in Criminal Justice. He was recently completed research projects focusing on crime analysis of motor vehicle thefts, motor vehicle break-ins, prostitution arrests, street corner market initiatives, and crime impacted areas around Habitat for Humanity. Peter will be focusing his research on juvenile disputes around recreational centers and schools, working with Pathways to Peace to examine the responses to crime and monitor the effects of intervention efforts.



Shane Williams, McNair Scholar Research Assistant

Shane Williams is a third-year student here at RIT, and originally from New York City. Shane just transferred to the Criminal Justice Department during the winter quarter of last year; prior to that he was enrolled in the Information Technology program. As a McNair scholar he worked under Dr. John McCluskey and looked at the identification of transgendered individuals in the criminal justice system. He has not yet done any work with CPSI but he looks forward to undertaking research projects with the Center for the upcoming academic year.

Research Spotlight

On July 21, 2010 Michelle Comeau participated in the Poster Session of the 2nd Annual Graduate Research Symposium at RIT. Her poster, "The Police Recruitment Process: Rochester, NY" highlights the varying rates of attrition that occur throughout the recruitment process, and in particular for 'Minority' and 'Majority' candidates. Two key findings from the research are that while the number of individuals who officially withdraw from the process is quite small, the sum total of all recruits who drop out is almost half of the total population (47%). Additionally, there are notable varying rates of attrition between Majority (White/Non-Hispanic and Other) and Minority (Hispanic, African American, Native American, Pacific Islander, Asian) in the failure rates for the Civil Service Exam, Background Investigation, and Physical Agility Exam. This was the sole entry in the poster session from the College of Liberal Arts.

Special thanks to

We are especially grateful to our generous supporters and partners:

- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
- Department of Justice: Project Safe Neighborhoods
- Department of Justice: Rochester Safe and Sound
- Monroe County District Attorney's Office
- United States Attorney's Office of the Western District of New York

We are grateful to our sponsors to provide us the opportunity to support a wide array of community organizations. These have included:

- Rochester Police Department
- Monroe Crime Analysis Center
- Catholic Family Center
- Monroe County Probation
- Monroe County District Attorney's Office
- Crestwood/Hillside
- Community Place of Greater Rochester
- Boys & Girls Club of Rochester
- Huther-Doyle
- Pathways to Peace
- Camp Good Days
- Theatre for Change
- Grace United Methodist
- Buffalo Police Department
- Child & Adolescent Treatment Services
- Compass House
- Compeer
- Partners in Restorative Initiatives
- Community Missions
- Boys & Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County
- Olean YMCA
- Jamestown YMCA
- Rochester YMCA
- Glove House
- Avenue D Reading Club
- Advocate Custom Works
- Teen Empowerment
- Judicial Process Commission