

Center for Public Safety Initiatives

Newsletter Summer 2012

www.rit.edu/cpsi
585.475.6386

Thank you for reading another installment of the CPSI 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 kejgcj@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.

Students are continuing research during the summer and our weekly meetings are scheduled for Wednesday at 12 noon. All are welcome, please contact us if you're interested in attending.

Catching up with CPSI Students

Michelle Comeau has recently completed her first year of the Doctoral Program in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. Michelle will be joining CPSI this summer to conduct an updated analysis of the 2011 Pawn Shop Transactions in the City of Rochester. Last year, Michelle compiled the 2010 data for all pawn shop transactions in Rochester, and conducted analysis that lead to the discovery of patterns that revealed Rochester's most active pawners. Stay tuned to the www.rit.edu/cpsi for an updated version of the 2011 working paper. [Analysis of 2010 Rochester-City Pawn Shop Transactions Working Paper](#). Michelle also created a flow chart, which outlines the frequency of the top pawners, at what shops they have pawned, and the number of items/retail value of these transactions.

Greg Drake also just finished his first year of his Doctoral Program in the School of Criminal Justice at the Michigan State University.

Chad Posick also finished his third and final year at the Doctoral Program in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Northeastern University.

New Faculty joins CPSI



Please join us in welcoming Dr. Irshad Alzheimer to the Department of Criminal Justice at RIT and the Center for Public Safety Initiatives. Dr. Alzheimer received his Ph.D. in sociology from Washington State University and has published research articles in a variety of criminology and criminal justice journals. His research interests include macro-level criminology, criminological theory, corrections, and criminal justice policy. He teaches a broad range of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Alzheimer will be working with Audrey DiPoala on the creation of the Rochester Police Department shooting database.

Research Spotlight

On Saturday, May 5th, CPSI faculty, staff and students showcased their research at the Imagine RIT: Innovation + Creativity Festival. Students presented their research in a poster session, dealing with issues surrounding the legal status of medical marijuana ([read the working paper here](#)); an evaluation of Project TIPS ([Jones Square](#), [Frost Avenue](#), [Conkey & Clifford](#)); an analysis of gun violence in Western New York; and an analysis of Rochester burglary data.



In June the Center for Public Safety Initiatives (CPSI) sent Dr. John McCluskey and six assistant researchers (Audrey DiPoala, Erin Doyle, Tristen Durand, Arindam Ghosh, Michael Langenbacher, and George Mackenzie) to represent RIT at the North Eastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences conference held at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island. The six presented on a number of programs and studies that CPSI is currently involved in: Michael presented on Project TIPS, Audrey presented on the creation of a shooting database with Rochester Police Department and the Monroe Crime Analysis Center, Arindam and George presented on the geo-spatial analysis of burglaries in Monroe County, and Erin and Tristen presented their research on female burglars in Monroe County.

Following the presentation, the CPSI representatives attended presentations and took in some of the sights and local cuisine. Pictured is the group at the Newport Cliff Walk, a scenic 3.5 trail that sits between the Atlantic Ocean and a National Historic District, home to several mansions and the Salve Regina campus. Without the support of the College of Liberal Arts, the community partnerships and those working in the Center for Public Safety Initiatives, this trip would not have been possible.



Crime Analysis Partnerships

Please join me in congratulating Danielle DiGaspari on her new job! Danielle will be joining our team of Crime Analysts at the Monroe Crime Analysis Center. Danielle worked closely with the Center last year on Project T.I.P.S events.

The Center for Public Safety Initiatives has had a long-standing relationship with DCJS and the Crime Analysis Centers. We currently fund seven full time analysts and a supervisory analyst at MCAC, in addition to four full time analysts at the Erie Crime Analysis Center. RIT has worked with Center analysts on a number of projects including evaluation of the impact of law enforcement related gang initiatives. The Center also actively participated in all local IMPACT meetings, met regularly with the Rochester police, probation and the Monroe County District Attorney's office on matters dealing with anti-violence strategies.

Our research done in the Center is largely funded by DCJS, RPD and the Crime Analysis Centers, and we are very pleased to have one of our former students join them full time. We look forward to working with Danielle in her new capacity at MCAC, where she will be continuing her work on locally relevant research.

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 & Special Times
- 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
- Stop the Violence Coalition
- West Side Youth Violence Prevention Task Force
- GoodFellas