

Center for Public Safety Initiatives

Spring 2012 Newsletter

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Thank you for reading another installment of the CPSI Newsletter. Our students are working diligently on locally relevant, community based research. We like to keep you updated on our current research projects and community involvement throughout the year.

We now hold our weekly summer meetings on Thursdays at 10am. (RIT Eastman Building 1, room 2190) All are welcome; please contact us if you're interested in attending. We would love to have you join us!

Updates to our Work:

We have posted some new working papers on our website <http://www.rit.edu/cla/cpsi/> on topics such as the shooting database, gun articles, and some new "Under Construction" papers. Take a look!

Events:

Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences will hold its 37th annual conference in Rhode Island. Our student researcher will be attending from June 5-6th to present their research.

Senior Luncheon was held on April 26th, 2013. We honored, Mike Wood, Deputy Chief of Operations for Rochester Police Department for his contributions to justice. We also honored all of our CPSI researchers for their extraordinary work.

Imagine RIT was held on May 4th, 2013. We had a booth that displayed all of our students' work, alongside a "Certified Nerd Test," and distributed a short survey on perceptions of crime. The day turned out to be beautiful and everyone really enjoyed it! Check out our webpage to see the posters the students presented at the festival.



Congrats are in order!!!

Graduation Day! was May 17th, 2013. CPSI Staff would like to congratulate our students who are graduating!

- Douglas Bullock
- Arindam Ghosh
- Kyle Letteny
- George Mackenzie
- Audrey DiPoala

We wish them all the best and good luck in the future!

Our Own Associate Director, Janelle Duda, will also be moving on, she has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in Social Welfare at Case Western Reserve University! As you all know Janelle was an intricate part of CPSI, and she will be dearly missed here.

A few words from Janelle:

During my time with CPSI I have become convinced that locally relevant research matters. I have had the opportunity to work alongside bright minded, hardworking people who are willing to take the time and effort to truly understand a problem and work towards a solution. While sitting at a desk behind a closed office door may seem tempting at times, the insight gained from interacting with those faced with the particular issue, is what allowed me to have a much better understanding of the practical issues communities, agencies, and residents are confronted with. The practical issues, such as those related to staffing, technologies, data collection, and even mission agreement are critical to identify and understand in order to produce an effective evaluation, share valuable input, and to problem-solve. CPSI has managed to not only open up my eyes, but to also afford students the opportunity to gain practical, on the ground experience, which is invaluable. Students are involved with violence reduction planning, database creation and implementation, community outreach efforts, and survey distribution and analysis. I am so proud of CPSI and how it has grown over the years. Thank you to the amazing researchers, Gia (for keeping our expenses reasonable), the CJ faculty, MCAC staff, and, of course, all of the community agencies and service providers who have worked with CPSI in one way or another. Lastly, I want to thank my mentor, Dr. John Klofas, Director of CPSI, for teaching me more than I could ever imagine. There is no way I would be equipped with the knowledge, determination, and passion for community research without his guidance. Thank you to everyone for making my time with CPSI unforgettable!

Ongoing CPSI Project Updates -see also <http://www.rit.edu/cla/cpsi/>

Under Construction: Building a Community Violence Reduction Plan.

This is something different- not the usual research paper from us (as good as they may be). We are trying to build a plan- or at least lay the foundation, and we would like your help. Send us your ideas on specific programs or interventions that you think can help reduce levels of violence in this community. They may be ideas for programs run by not-for-profits, or they may be ideas for law enforcement or the courts, or even private businesses. So, announce it in your staff meeting, or your classroom or just among your friends. We want to reach out as widely as possible. Email your ideas to CPSI@rit.edu

Burglary Analysis

The Burglary Analysis Team will continue its research on female burglars to gain a better picture of the difference between male and female arrestees with regard to motive and target selection. The investigation of burglaries is also an area of focus. In particular the team will focus on neighborhood variations in clearance rates and whether those rates are predictable. Finally, the BAT team is in the preliminary stage of studying burglary investigations in terms of how different departments may process similar types of cases.

Rochester Shooting Database

Students Audrey DiPoala, Karyn Bower and Sam DiPoala, led by Dr. Irshad Altheimer of CPSI are working with the Monroe Crime Analysis Center and the Rochester Police Department on the development of an inclusive shooting database for RPD, consisting of all shooting incidents resulting in injury within the city of Rochester from 2001 onward. The database will provide law enforcement and crime analysts with extensive and easily accessible information regarding these incidents.

Repeat Victimization

Mike Langenbacher and Arindham Ghosh of CPSI have begun to look at repeat victimization in seven years of crime data provided by the Monroe Crime Analysis Center. Comprised of more than 129,000 police reports, this data will provide a unique insight into repeat victims and offenders. A preliminary analysis showed that about 60,000 of these reports are for approximately 20,000 repeat victims.

Marijuana Markets & Street Sales

The goal of the analysis of the open air drug markets in neighborhoods is to expose characteristics that may help community to successfully integrate restorative justice practices. Currently, Doug Bullock and Pedro Vasquez of CPSI are working on this initiative. Some elements include focusing on mapping and graphing techniques that help illustrate the inner workings of the open air drug market in the northern section of the city, as well as a working on a paper on New York State Marijuana laws and the concerns of the neighborhood regarding the sale of drugs.

M.K Gandhi Institute for Non-Violence

Our most recent collaboration with the Gandhi Institute involves Mike Langenbacher, Arindham Ghosh, Audrey DiPoala and Karyn Bower. These students worked to develop survey questions and execute that survey using Turning Point Response System™. Turning Point Response System™ is where participants will press a button (similar to on a remote control) to answer questions in lieu of raising hands or speaking aloud. Once the answer to the question is registered the results then appear on a computer screen. We then use these results to help foster dialogue in this study, of how the youth responded. This not only creates valuable feedback, but gives every participant a right to respond to a question and makes the survey more interactive.

International Research Exchange

CPSI is looking for new international partners interested in sharing data and research with Universities and Institutions worldwide.

Our own researcher Lakshmi Raman will be performing a cross cultural research study on domestic violence law in Dubai, UAE and Mumbai, India this summer.

About 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 Gia Boersema at 585-475-6386.

We are always looking for ways to serve the community with research and welcome any ideas. Please contact Janelle at jmdgcj@rit.edu or 585-475-5591 to speak about possible research opportunities. For a complete list of working papers outlining our research, visit www.rit.edu/cpsi.

From all of us here at CPSI we would like to thank you for your support in our continued efforts.
We hope you have a great summer! The CPSI Staff

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
- Monroe County Office of Probation and Community Corrections

We are grateful to our partners who 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 District Attorney's Office
- Community Place of Greater Rochester
- Boys & Girls Club of Rochester
- Pathways to Peace
- Camp Good Days & Special Times
- Grace United Methodist
- Partners in Restorative Initiatives
- Boys & Girls Club of Northern Chautauqua County
- Avenue D Reading Club
- Advocate Custom Works
- Teen Empowerment
- Judicial Process Commission
- Stop the Violence Coalition
- West Side Youth Violence Prevention Task Force
- GoodFellas
- City Of Rochester
- IBERO-American Action League
- Camp Good Days and Special Times
- Volunteers Of America
- Rochester Youth Violence Partnership
- M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence