Researchers from the CSR, VACCINE and Coastal Hazards Center complete site visits to Coast Guard Sector’s San Francisco and Houston. Researchers from the Center for Secure and Resilient Maritime Commerce (CSR), the Center for Visual Analytics for Command, Control and Interoperability (VACCINE) and the Coastal Hazards Center, recently completed site visits to Coast Guard Sector’s San Francisco and Houston, as part of a multi-center research project to develop a decision framework to assist the USCG and its port partners in preparing for and responding to port disruptions.

Coordinated by Sam Cheung, Operations Research Analyst, USCG R&D Center, the research team participated in visits to the command center’s at Sectors New York, San Francisco, and Houston. The site visits included meetings with Sector Commanders, the Captains of the Port, and visits to important Sector facilities. The Sector’s were very helpful in supporting the initiative, having been selected according to their diverse geographical locations, their command structures, and the range and volume of cargo that transit in and out of their ports.

The research project, sponsored by the USCG R&D Center, will suggest a decision framework to enhance port resiliency during port disruptions and will also identify a set of tools and technologies that can be implemented to improve information and communication at the port-level and district-levels during disruption events.

Future Homeland Security practitioners attend 5th annual Summer Research Institute. This past summer, eighteen undergraduate and graduate-level students attended the CSR’s 5th annual Summer Research Institute, held at the Stevens Institute of Technology campus in Hoboken, NJ.

Throughout the eight-week program, the students collaborated with CSR researchers and networked with practitioners from CBP, USCG, NJ OHSP, NYPD, NUSTL and OEM, to conduct research with the objective of enhancing the situational awareness, surveillance capabilities, and emergency response and preparedness of first responders and emergency management personnel.

SRI 2014 student research projects included: (Click on the links to review a description of the project):

- Acoustic Vessel Signature Analysis for Automated Vessel Classification
- Magello Emergency Response Tool: End-user Test and Evaluation
- Maritime Incident Scenario Development and LNG Safety and Security
- Technology Integration and Synergies: Radar, Optics and AIS

Student experiential learning activities also included field visits to CBP’s Tactical Operations Division at the Port of New York/Newark, the National Urban Security Technology Laboratory in NYC, and the Office of Emergency Management in Brooklyn, NY. The students also participated in a one-day Port Awareness and Preparedness course delivered by the NYPD-Counterterrorism Division and engaged in a security patrol of the Hudson River with the captain and crew of the USCG Sturgeon Bay during the Macy’s 4th of July fireworks.

At the culmination of the program, the students presented their research outcomes to CSR researchers, Stevens faculty and invited guests from DHS component agencies. Copies of the student presentations can be found on the CSR website at: http://www.stevens.edu/ses/summer-research-institute-2014
NJ Assemblywomen Annette Quijano (D-20), Chairwoman of the Homeland Security & State Preparedness Committee and committee member Nancy Pinkin (D-18) tour CSR Maritime Security Laboratory. On July 23rd, Dr. Michael Bruno, Dean of the School of Engineering and Science, hosted a visit by NJ Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Chairwoman of the Assembly Homeland Security & State Preparedness Committee, and committee member Assemblywoman Nancy Pinkin (D-18) for a tour of the CSR Maritime Security Laboratory (MSL). Dr. Barry Bunin, Chief Architect of the MSL, facilitated the tour with the assistance of Stevens Maritime Systems Fellowship students, who provided hands-on demonstrations of the Center’s broadband radar and passive acoustic capabilities in the NY Harbor.

The Assemblywomen were accompanied by Julie Diaz, Chief of Staff to Assemblywoman Quijano, Gary Williams, Committee Aide to the Assembly Homeland Security & State Preparedness Committee, Lauren Vogel, Deputy Counsel for Law & Public Safety Section of the Office of Legislative Services, and Amanda Holland, Office of Legislative Services Aide to the Assembly Homeland Security & State Preparedness Committee. Prior to visiting the CSR Lab, the NJ Legislature representatives met with Dr. Nariman Farvardin, President of Stevens Institute of Technology.

CSR students host exhibit booth and compete in City of Water Day cardboard kayak race in Hoboken and NYC. CSR students represented the Center in the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance's City of Water Day, held Saturday, July 12, 2014, in Governors Island, NYC and in Maxwell Park in Hoboken, NJ. The event, which drew thousands of residents from the metropolitan area, engaged the public in educational activities focused on water resources and environmental issues, as well as a celebration of water-based activities.

CSR’s Talmor Meir, Ocean Engineering PhD candidate, hosted an exhibit booth in Maxwell Park along the Hoboken waterfront, to promote ocean education and to engage school-aged children in an arts and crafts project to create ornate paper sailboats.

On the waterside, CSR Summer Research Institute (SRI) students, led by Carrick Porter (Computer Engineering student at Stevens Institute), competed to win the City of Water Day’s highly competitive cardboard kayak race. This was the SRI team’s second consecutive win in two years. Click here to watch a video of the race: SRI Cardboard Kayak Champions!

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