Maritime stakeholders convene to discuss Risk in the Western Hemisphere and Southern Border Approaches at the 6th Annual Maritime Risk Symposium. Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Paul F. Zukunft provided the keynote address at the 6th Annual Maritime Risk Symposium, co-hosted by the Maritime Security Center and the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center, and held at Stevens Institute of Technology on November 16 & 17, 2015.

The event drew close to 150 attendees representing a diverse group of international and national maritime representatives to engage in conversations regarding cybersecurity threats to the maritime domain, safeguarding commerce and the Marine Transportation System (MTS), combating criminal and terrorist networks, protecting maritime borders, and data sharing across the industry and government maritime enterprise. For a list of the Symposium presenters and to review copies of their presentation slides, please visit the following link: 2015 Maritime Risk Symposium. (The names highlighted in red font indicate available presentation slides.)

This year’s Symposium encouraged attendees, keynote presenters and panelists to identify critical research areas where academia could help contribute solutions to the maritime risk arena. As a follow-up to the MRS, the Maritime Security Center will prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) to include research needs and topics proposed by the Symposium. The RFP announcement will be distributed in early spring 2016.

MSC hosts seminar on Maritime Cybersecurity: Anticipating, Preventing and Mitigating Risk. The Maritime Security Center hosted Kate B. Belmont, Senior Associate, Blank Rome LLC, for a seminar focused on Maritime Cybersecurity: Anticipating, preventing and mitigating risks.

Ms. Belmont’s legal practice focuses on admiralty and maritime law, maritime cybersecurity, commercial litigation, and arbitration. The following is an abstract from her December 10 invited talk: The unprecedented cybersecurity challenges present in today’s global digital economy extend into the maritime domain and demand comprehensive solutions to protecting property and reputation. This presentation will discuss the potential consequences of a cyber-attack and measures for promoting cybersecurity awareness and mitigating cyber risks, with a focus on the maritime industry.

Seminar participants included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Maher Terminals, NYC Emergency Management, New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, the U.S. State Department, Chevron, and ConocoPhillips, together with faculty members, students and administrators from Stevens Institute of Technology and Rutgers University. MSC in conjunction with Stevens Institute of Technology delivers a Maritime Systems Seminar Series. To review the Seminar Series webpage, please visit the following link: http://www.stevens.edu/ses/maritime-systems-seminar-series.
Nicholas Haliscak, DHS Career Development Grant Fellow presents Master's Thesis. Nicholas Haliscak, DHS CDG Maritime Systems Master’s Degree Fellow recently defended his thesis entitled *Use of System Parameters to Augment Autonomous Navigation*. Nicholas conducted research under the guidance of his thesis advisor Dr. Brendan Englot, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering and his academic advisor, Dr. Barry Bunin, Program Director Maritime Security.

During his tenure in the fellowship program, Nicholas participated in a ten-week internship with the U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center and had the unique opportunity to engage in the 2015 Arctic Shield experiments aboard the Coast Guard Cutter HEALY. Nicholas’s internship responsibilities included collaboration with members of the 3D Printing Team who developed parts and replacement items in real-time during the Arctic Shield operational exercises.

In an earlier internship assignment, Nicholas participated on a multidisciplinary student research team to develop maritime threat scenarios and emergency response exercise manuals during the MSC’s 2014 Summer Research Institute. Nicholas is currently exploring homeland security employment opportunities in his home state of Texas. He is a former graduate of the Texas A&M University - Kingsville, where he received a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering.

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