

MSC NEWSLETTER – JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016



MSC and HSI meet to discuss areas for collaboration. HSI is responsible for investigating cross-border criminal activity, including narcotics and weapons smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering and transnational gang activity. Image credits: <https://www.ice.gov/hsi>

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) representatives attend briefing at MSC. The Maritime Security Center recently hosted representatives from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) the criminal investigation and law enforcement authority of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Division of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The meeting included a demonstration of the Center's sensor technologies and assets, and included a discussion on areas of mutual interest and collaboration.

HSI has an international presence and is responsible for investigating a broad range of cross-border criminal activity including narcotics and weapons trafficking/smuggling, commercial fraud and intellectual property theft, human smuggling and trafficking, transnational gang activity and financial crimes and money laundering.

A follow-on MSC/HSI meeting is planned to be held at the HSI field office in New York City later this spring.

Stevens Maritime Systems Graduate Assistant scouts out new technologies at the 2016 Consumer Electronics Show. Blaise Linn, MSC Graduate Assistant and Summer Research Institute alumni was selected by DHS Office of University Programs together with five other Center of Excellence (COE) students from the [Center for Visualization and Data Analytics \(CVADA\)](#), [Critical Infrastructure Resilience Institute \(CIRI\)](#), [Coastal Resilience Center \(CRC\)](#), and [Food Protection and Defense Institute \(FPDI\)](#) to assess new technologies at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held in Las Vegas, NV in early January. The purpose of the trip was to encourage COE students to consider the cost-benefit analysis and risk assessment considerations of technology investments pertinent to their respective Center's DHS mission area of expertise and to the broad industry domain as well. During the three-day event, Blaise and his peers had the opportunity to brief Dr. Reginald Brothers, DHS Science and Technology Undersecretary on the technologies that each had surveyed.

In the early spring, Blaise will meet with representatives from DHS OUP to present a cost-benefit analysis for three emerging technologies he assessed at the CES.



Blaise Linn (second from left) joins students from CVADA, CIRI, CRC and FPDI for a briefing with Dr. Reginald Brother, DHS S&T Undersecretary (far left), at the CES in Las Vegas, NV.
Photo credits: DHS S&T



[SRI 2016 Program Brochure](#)

MSC to hold 7th Annual Summer Research Institute (SRI). The Maritime Security Center will hold the Center's 7th annual Summer Research Institute (SRI) from June 6 to July 29, 2016 at the Stevens Institute of Technology campus in Hoboken, NJ. The eight-week intensive summer research program will engage STEM-focused students in projects designed to enhance the situational awareness and decision support capabilities of emergency responders and homeland security practitioners.

Since the program's inception in 2010, 103 students representing 20 U.S. universities have engaged in the summer research program. SRI student research outcomes have contributed to the development of new tools and technologies, co-authored papers, presentations at national conferences and have paved way for student research opportunities at DHS component and affiliate homeland security agencies. To review student research projects from [2015](#), [2014](#), [2013](#), [2012](#), [2011](#) and [2010](#), please click on the respective links.

The 2016 SRI student research project areas will include: Multiple Sensor Integration and Synergies, Computer Vision/Data Fusion and Cybersecurity for Maritime Security Applications. To learn more about the summer research program, visit the SRI webpage at <http://www.stevens.edu/ses/msc/education/summer-research-institute>.

Chris Polacco, DHS CDG Fellow to support NUSTL's Urban Operational Experimentation Program in new position with LMI.

Chris Polacco recently accepted a position with [LMI](#), a not-for-profit government consulting organization who provides management and technical support to DHS component agencies, as well as the public sector. In his new capacity Chris will work in conjunction with representatives from the [National Urban Security Technology Laboratory \(NUSTL\)](#) to plan for and host the national lab's Urban Operational Experimentation Program.

The Urban Operational Experimentation Program brings together first responders from around the U.S. to test, evaluate and experiment with the latest tools and technologies in robotics, X-ray scanning, and chemical, biological and radiological detection systems to name a few.

Chris holds a Master's Degree in Maritime Systems and Security and a Bachelor of Engineering in Chemical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. During his DHS CDG Fellowship program, Chris participated in a ten-week internship with the NYPD-Counterterrorism Division.



Chris Polacco, DHS CDG Fellow to support NUSTL in position with LMI.

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