



## COLD CASE ANALYSIS CENTER

The only center of its kind in New York State and one of six nationally, our Cold Case Analysis Center (CCAC) allows selected students from our criminal justice, behavior and law, forensic science, and forensic psychology degree programs to work on true cold cases, addressing a mounting problem in the criminal justice system. All of this is done under the guidance of our expert faculty and in partnership with local law enforcement agencies.

## HOW THE COLD CASE ANALYSIS CENTER WORKS

Cold Case Analysis Center interns receive training and experience in unsolved case analysis while forming relationships with community agencies and contributing to local and state law enforcement cold case initiatives. These students work on cold cases with roots in the Capital Region and learn new investigation skills and techniques.

Our interns also have the chance to work with WNYT on a new podcast series, “Crime Academy,” in addition to other television and new stories the CCAC generates.

## CURRENT CASES

Our interns are currently working on unsolved homicides and missing persons cases. These cases stretch back decades — the focus is to spread awareness and keep these stories alive.

### **The Disappearance of Suzanne Lyall**

Suzanne Lyall was a computer science college student the same age as some of the current students at CCAC. She disappeared at the university down the road from Saint Rose on March 2, 1998. There are many theories and suspects related to her disappearance, but little is known about what actually happened to Lyall.

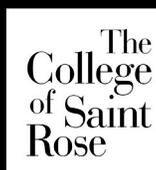
### **The Unsolved Murder of Ruth Whitman**

The students are also working on the 60-year-old unsolved homicide case of Ruth Whitman. Eighteen-year-old Whitman was found face down in a drainage ditch on Sandcreek Road in Colonie, New York in 1959. Her case has taken many twists and turns and is now in the hands of the CCAC.

### **The Missing Child Case of Jalieq Rainwalker**

Most recently, the CCAC has taken on the missing case of Jalieq Rainwalker. On November 2, 2007, Jalieq at age 12, went missing from his residence in Greenwich, New York. In 2012, the case was elevated from “missing child” to “probable child homicide.”

**The National Missing and Unidentified Person System estimates that an average of 2,000 missing person cases go unsolved each year. According to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), a total of 2,951 active missing person cases remained open in New York State at the end of 2013.**



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORK ON A CASE?

Students apply what they learn in class to their work in the CCAC. They are a valued member of the team, working side by side with law enforcement to bring justice to families of crime victims. Students have described getting the “cold case bug” and become determined to find new information on their assigned case.

Some students are assigned as case leaders, which coordinate their group’s activities. Being a leader develops confidence, especially when the group becomes an effective unit.

Our media presence also cultivates our students’ communication skills and ability to effectively broadcast their ideas to the community.

## WHAT DO CCAC INTERNS DO?

- Organize and decipher real crime files
- Work with law enforcement
- Interact with victims’ families and community organizations
- Identify suspects
- Make recommendations for forensics
- Reconstruct crime and map victims’ last steps
- Interpret crime scene photos
- Complete archival research to establish the context of the crime
- Locate people related to crime
- Assist in media outreach and podcast creation to bring community attention to various cold cases

## WHAT OUR INTERNS ARE SAYING



**“I’ve worked with the Cold Case Analysis Center for a little more than half a year now, and I’ve learned so much from this experience. It’s very eye-opening to work on actual cold cases, but it does feel nice to be able to try to bring some closure to families still wondering what happened to their loved ones. It’s also been very fun working with such like-minded students working together with the same goal.”**

— **Matthew Raupach '22**, Forensic psychology major



**“Being a part of the Cold Case Analysis Center has been an amazing opportunity. Having access to real-life unsolved cases and applying skills we have learned in past classes is an experience I’ll never forget. This has been a great stepping stone for me on my way to pursue a career in law enforcement.”**

— **Kaitlin McCarthy '21**, Forensic psychology major with a minor in criminal justice



**“The Cold Case Analysis Center is such a great experience to learn from and to prepare you for working in the criminal justice world. It teaches you how to be professional and about responsibility. It shows you that if you don’t give something your full attention or your best work, you will let down your team as well as yourself. This program has also provided me with great connections in the field. I have grown to love detective work, working to find justice for those who need it.”**

— **Jasmine Robles '21**, Criminal justice, behavior, and law major with a concentration in criminal behavior and criminology

## MEET OUR FACULTY ADVISORS

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