Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis
A DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

December 2020 www.cina.gmu.edu

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THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Jim Jones

The CINA mission is supported by three core activities: help DHS with current problems, foresee DHS challenges and opportunities of the future, and help educate the current and future DHS workforce. As part of the second activity, the CINA Science Committee this month initiated a focused effort to look over the horizon with respect to criminal operations and investigations. That effort has included talking to DHS operational personnel about their experiences and ideas, both current and future. In addition to the useful information provided, I have been struck by the dedication, sense of purpose, and persistence of everyone with whom we've talked. These people have spent years, often decades, fighting for justice and the safety of our country, institutions, and people, often with little reward or recognition. And yet, they each expressed a deep commitment to the work and mission, and profound satisfaction that they have made a positive difference.

We are proud to support that mission and work, and we are happy to report two items related to these efforts. First, we recently hired a full-time CINA Workforce Development Lead, Deanna Austin. Deanna brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the center, we are fortunate to have her, and we look forward to the high quality programs and efforts that Deanna will be leading. Second, we released our annual RFP this week. The Request for Proposals outlines the major areas of interest to CINA and our DHS sponsors, and we look forward to hearing about your research and ideas.

RESEARCH

CINA 2021 Annual RFP Now Open for Submissions



CINA's 2021 Annual RFP invites proposals that will address main challenges represented by the four research themes of the CINA Center: Criminal Network Analysis, Dynamic Patterns of Criminal Activity, Forensics, and Criminal Investigative Processes. White paper submissions will be accepted through January 29, 2021. Learn how to submit your proposal.

NEWS



Mason to unveil its new Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory

The opening of George Mason University's new Forensic Science Research and Training Laboratory in the Spring 2021 semester establishes Mason as a leader in forensic anthropology and investigations and a valuable community partner with law enforcement. Mary Ellen O'Toole, a CINA Science Committee member and Director of the Forensic Science Program and a former FBI profiler, called the new facility an "incredible initiative that will distinguish Mason in the field of forensic science and related sciences for years to come." Read the full story.

DHS Partnership Fights Cyber Crime With Innovative Digital Tools



CINA Director, Jim Jones was featured in an article by Government CIO Media highlighting the center's work in digital forensic technologies and its support of cybersecurity. Read the full interview.

Diana Davis Spencer Foundation Awards $450,000 to Schar School for New National Security Scholarships



The highly ranked security studies programs at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University have received a $450,000 gift from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation. The programs will use $250,000 for scholarships for eligible master's students entering the Schar School in the Spring of 2021 The Diana Davis Spencer Foundation Scholarship is intended to develop and prepare future national security professionals and leaders who will study in one of the Schar School's four security-oriented master's programs: Master's in International Security, Master's in Biodefense, Master's in Public Policy with an emphasis in National Security and Public Policy, and Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Read more about the scholarships.

CINA Recruits Deanna Austin as Workforce Development Lead



CINA recently brought on Deanna Austin to head Workforce Development. Austin brings a strong educational/training background to the position, as she holds certification as a Navy Instructor, a Department of Energy National Training Center Instructor, and as an Advanced Instructor with the FBI Academy at Quantico VA, where she also served as Curriculum Program Manager for the Intelligence Basic Course (IBC). At Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU), Professor Austin taught History of Terrorism; Intelligence Writing; Analysis, Writing and Briefing; Counterintelligence; Ireland and the Troubles; and OSINT Research and Analysis at the undergraduate level and Counterintelligence-Denial and Deception at the graduate level. She holds dual master's degrees – one in Human Development Counseling and one in Education with an emphasis on managing and using technology within education.





CINA's Kerry Riddle Recognized as Mason's Employee of the Month

Kerry Riddle has served as CINA's Financial and Administrative Specialist since 2018, and was awarded as George Mason University's Employee of the Month in December. "A full description of her achievements the last two years is lamentably impossible here," Stu Mackenzie, CINA's science manager, wrote in his recommendation letter.

Riddle's work profile is extensive. She manages CINA's budget, coordinates research subcontracts, handles fiscal and purchasing requirements, coordinates events and internships,

and provides general support for all operations, including travel, scheduling and equipment. Read her interview here.



CINA Distinguished Speaker Series: Spring 2021 Upcoming Events



Save the date for our upcoming Distinguished Speaker Series event taking place on February 17, 2021, featuring Celina Realuyo, Professor of Practice, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, The National Defense University.

Her presentation will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, security and transnational organized crime in the Americas.

Register Now

See below for additional Spring 2021 CINA Distinguished Speaker Series events.

March 17: Diana Dolliver, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Academic Director, Joint Electronic Crimes Task Force, FBI Task Force Officer, Redstone Arsenal BH Squad 12/Cyber

April 14: Jeffrey Hardy, Director-General, Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade

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Visit our website's digital archive to view more research and past events hosted by CINA.

You're invited to submit articles, photos, videos, and story ideas to include in upcoming newsletters. Submit your ideas on our website contact form.

Stay Connected

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