The obvious answer is by working together toward common goals, mixing tried and true solutions with innovative approaches that solve problems better, faster, and cheaper, while also holding onto what’s working. This is a way of life for the combined COE-DHS network. We have learned when to join forces, when to share, and when to get out of each other’s way. This rich tapestry of talent, work, and relationships is a powerful thing to behold. It is only possible to achieve such a level of collaboration because we have more than enough challenges to fill our plates, we have a strong and vibrant workforce, and we have the knowledge, experience, ability, and imagination, all focused on the problems faced by DHS, state, and local stakeholders, as well as industry partners. Combined, we are a formidable group of professionals capable of tackling challenges that individually we might not face in our lifetimes.

The threat landscape facing our nation and world is complex, varied, and dynamic. We are actively dealing with a global pandemic, mass shootings, foreign and domestic terrorism, and more broadly by our nation and world. The combined COE-DHS network is formidable, but if there is one thing we have all learned, it is that knowledge and leadership are not enough; it is only when these are combined with those forms of heinous, illicit activities. Impeding these activities requires thoughtful consideration, open minds, leadership, focus, diligence, discipline, persistence, and, at times, the willingness to damage one's career to stop others from benefiting from their efforts before they even materialize. Striking this balance requires thoughtful consideration and action.

RESEARCH

News

How the Financial System Can Work to Focus on the Role of Financial Systems in Combating Human Trafficking

Jiasun Li

People, government agencies, and financial institutions are working together to develop tools for analyzing bitcoin, Ethereum, and other blockchain currency transactions. A two-year $400,000 grant from the CINA Department of Justice, Government, along with Mason Assistant Professors Jiasun Li and Daniel Mandelbaum, will enable Professor of Public Policy George Mason University Collaboration Center of Excellence for the Development for a Safe and Secure Homeland (CINA) at George Mason University to apply tools from economics, cryptography, and government to create a suite of cutting-edge tools for analyzing Bitcoin, Ethereum, and other blockchain currency transactions.

The objective is to allow law enforcement to work with foreign partners to identify and help dismantle criminal networks involved in the financial facilitation of terrorist and high-profile criminal activity. The tools will enable detecting and understanding a network in real time, as well as making interdictions or arrests at the border or in a country. The team will be led by Mason’s Jiasun Li and Daniel Mandelbaum, with CINA’s Dr. Louise Shelley as an external collaborator.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Centers of Excellence (COEs) serve as a unique bridge between the federal government, academia, and industry. The combined COE-DHS network is a powerful thing to behold. It is only possible to achieve such a level of collaboration because we have more than enough challenges to fill our plates, we have a strong and vibrant workforce, and we have the knowledge, experience, ability, and imagination, all focused on the problems faced by DHS, state, and local stakeholders, as well as industry partners. Combined, we are a formidable group of professionals capable of tackling challenges that individually we might not face in our lifetimes.

The expectation is that the combined COE-DHS network is expected to be facing in the near future. This rolling RFP provides an opportunity for submissions to be accepted at any time during the year.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

COE Summer Internship at TSA

During the internship, Walton will assist and collaborate with TSA-DHS Performance Management, which reviews performance data to support the agency’s accountability and performance initiatives. She will work on public policy and administrative issues, as well as bring her public accounting and business acumen to the program.

Walton is currently a senior at The George Washington University. She plans to graduate next May with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a minor in finance. Walton is a member of the D.C. Society of CPAs and the National Association of Black Accountants. She recently selected for a highly anticipated internship with TSA after applying for the position.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES:

George Mason University Collaboration Center of Excellence for the Development for a Safe and Secure Homeland (CINA)

Dr. Louise Shelley

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Center of Excellence Summit 2021

www.coesummit.org

Register online at www.coesummit.org/index.php/register

Register for the Summit

To learn more about the CINA Scholars program, contact Deanna Austin at daustin@gmu.edu or phone 703-993-4409.

For more information, contact Shellie Gollub at Shellie.Gollub@gmu.edu or phone 703-993-6600.

The Speaker Series will consist of presentations during the first half of May at George Mason University and the second half of May at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia.

Dolliver as she discusses cryptocurrencies and criminal investigations: from transaction to seizure.

Digital Archive: CINA Virtual Distinguished Speaker Series with Diana Dolliver

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Speaker: Diana Dolliver

Title: Digital Archive: CINA Virtual Distinguished Speaker Series with Diana Dolliver

Register online at www.coesummit.org/index.php/register

Register for the Summit

Further details and video recordings of the event will be available online at www.coesummit.org/index.php/register.

Other services are available for the convenience of our users. Please contact us at contact@gmu.edu or phone 703-993-4409.

With kind regards,

Jasun Li