



November 2021

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR



Jim Jones

My role at the CINA center puts me in contact with a wide variety of people at DHS and beyond. In any given week, I might talk with frontline operators, analysts, administrators, and leadership at different levels, and my peers and colleagues in the Centers of Excellence (COE) and research communities. These interactions are priceless - I learn from every one, and I always leave the interactions with renewed respect, deeper understanding, and ideas.

I recently had the pleasure of hearing a senior official explain the challenges of the intelligence community working amidst the flood of data that is our current world. As you might expect, he noted that we need tools. Just as importantly, he also described the need for knowledgeable and experienced analysts that can tie together the multiple threads generated by the tools. Machines are great, but humans put it all together.

[Read the full blog](#)

## NEWS

**DHS forms CoE for Engineering Secure Environments**

The Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate has tasked [Northeastern University](#) to lead a new security-focused Center of Excellence over a 10-year period.

The university will work with other academic institutions and various partners to establish the Center of Excellence for Engineering Secure Environments from Targeted Attacks (ESE), DHS said Wednesday. S&T will award a \$3.6 million grant to fund ESE's first year of operations.



“Researching and developing science and technology solutions to combat emerging threats is a top priority for DHS, and I am looking forward to continuing this important work in partnership with Northeastern University,” said Alejandro Mayorkas, the secretary of homeland security.



## Visiting Filmmakers Series: Picture a Scientist with Ian Cheney and Sharon Shattuck

George Mason University recently hosted a special screening of the Netflix documentary, [Picture A Scientist](#), followed by a discussion with the film's directors, Ian Cheney and Sharon Shattuck. The event was attended by two of CINA's leadership team members.

The documentary powerfully chronicles the groundswell of researchers who are writing a new chapter for women scientists. The film also offers perspectives on how to make science itself more diverse, equitable, and open to all. [Learn more about the documentary.](#)

## CINA Science Committee Spotlight: Louise Shelley

CINA Science Committee member [Louise Shelley](#), the Omer L. and Nancy Hirst Endowed Chair and a University Professor, is set to host the next installment of the [Mason Vision Series](#) on Tuesday, November 30. She will address *How the Smart Use of Data Is Being Used to Fight Transnational Crime*.



In her presentation, Dr. Shelley will describe ways sophisticated uses of data provide key insights into critical problems of corruption, terrorism, illicit trade, and transnational crime. She will also describe her National Science Foundation funded team's prize-winning basic research using advanced data analytics, which has contributed to the seizure worldwide of over 55 million counterfeit and substandard medical masks that would have otherwise endangered medical care providers.

The Mason Vision Series will be live streamed through [GMU-TV](#). Participants will have the opportunity to engage in the discussion by submitting questions via email

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## HBCU Career and Recruitment Fair

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities is set to host a [Virtual HBCU Career and Recruitment Fair](#) on December 2 for students, recent alumni and other job seekers.

Career fair objectives include: introducing HBCU students and alumni to career, fellowship, and intern opportunities; encourage stakeholders and external partners to recruit from HBCU talent; serve as a forum to foster public private partnerships that reinforce the vital importance of HBCUs and their impact on U.S. competitiveness in the global economy; and sustain dialogue to encourage collaborations among participants, institutions and students.

[Learn more about HBCU](#)

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

## Gretchen Peters: "How Organized Crime Weaponized Social Media"

Watch the recent CINA Distinguished Speaker Series with [Gretchen Peters](#), Executive Director of The Center on Illicit Networks and Transnational Organized Crime. Peters speaks about her organization's work on the way organized crime has weaponized social media.



## Marie Tillyer: "Open Source Data and Predictive Modeling"

## for High-Density Crime Areas"

In case you missed it, watch [Marie Tillyer](#), Professor of Criminology & Criminal Justice at the University of Texas at San Antonio discuss open source data and predictive modeling to uncover the indicators of high-density crime areas.

**CINA DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES**

*"Place-Based Improvements for Public Safety"*



**NOVEMBER 12**  
**11:30 a.m to 1 p.m**



*Virtual event*

**MARIE TILLYER**  
University of Texas at San Antonio

*"Public Regulation, Private Investment, and Changes in Crime at Micro-places Across 6 US Cities"*

This presentation will use data from six unique urban landscapes (Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, San Antonio, and Seattle) to explore spatiotemporal crime patterns.

  CINA@Mason  
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