Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis
A DHS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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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

(GMUProv@gmu.edu) or Twitter by using #VisionSeriesMason. To RSVP, click here.

HBCU Career and Recuitment Fair

The White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities is set to host a Virtual HBCU Career and Recuitment 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

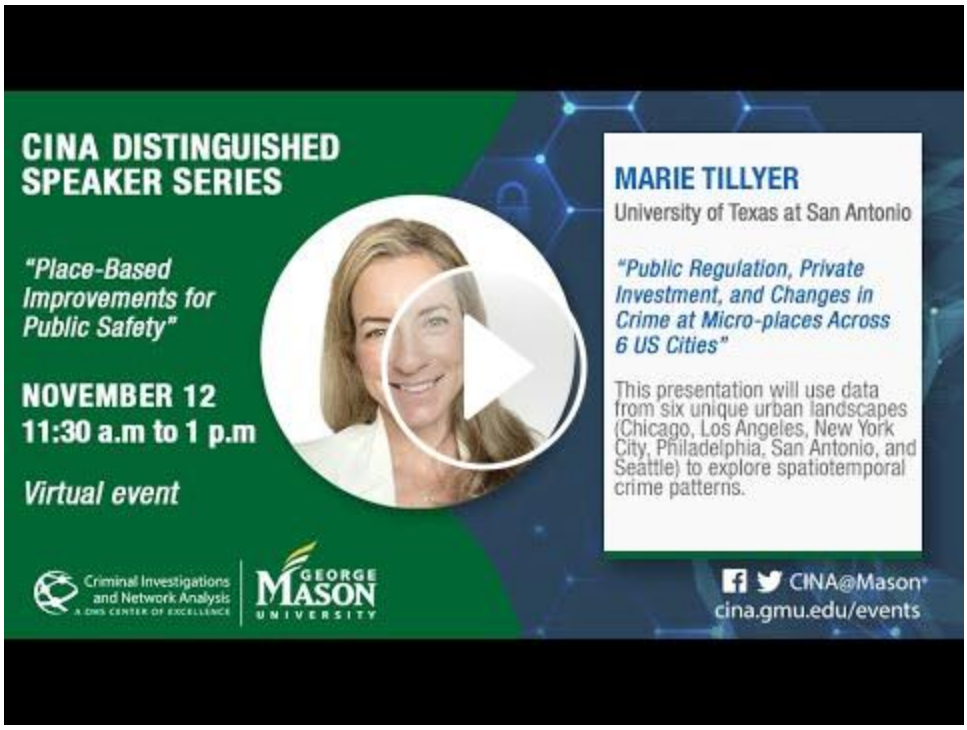
Gretchen Peters: "How Organized Crime Weaponized Social Media"

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.



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