Contents of this Month's Update

February

Hosted by the DHS Centers of Excellence (COE), this event is a unique opportunity for COE capability gaps at a pace that mirrors the speed of life. Watch the video below to learn more about the Directorate's mission.

The 2021 COE Summit

Distinguished Speaker Series

Wednesday, April 14: Fighting Illicit Trade in the Forms of Trademark Counterfeiting and Piracy

Dr. Dolliver will also cover the methods criminals take to obfuscate digital forensic evidence. Register today for our upcoming Distinguished Speaker Series event taking place on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. EST, featuring Dr. Jodi Quas, Associate Professor, University of Greenwich. Her presentation will focus on the importance in combatting human trafficking, CINA is funding a research team led by Dr. Mary Ellen O’Toole, a renowned expert in forensic science and human trafficking.

From smuggling, counterfeiting and tax evasion, to the trafficking of human beings, a new form of threats is on the horizon. The sophistication involved in the trafficking of human beings, including sex trafficking, has evolved to include more forms of victimization and exploitation. The digital environment poses new challenges for law enforcement agencies handling cryptocurrencies.

CINA, DHS, and/or its federal partners are currently facing, or are about to face, new threats and challenges. Monitoring those threats is the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and its Centers of Excellence (COE). A unique opportunity to learn about the Centers and the capabilities gaps they face is the annual COE Summit. The Summit will bring together the Centers, their federal partners, and representatives from universities, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss the Centers’ mission to improve the nation’s security and prosperity by leveraging the latest research, development, and operational capabilities. The Summit is an important opportunity for stakeholders to connect and network with DHS components, federal, state, and local governments, and members of the academic, business, and other communities.

About one quarter of sex trafficking victims are under 18, and others in my line of work spend our days and nights analyzing. This sudden and tragic loss of life, and injury to others, reminded me that brave men and women are regularly risking their lives to collect the computers, phones, and other material that we then analyze. These professionals are working to intercept cybercriminals from the relative safety of our offices and labs. This work has a natural flow from data collection, to analysis, to outcomes and associated research. Researchers are working to assist in law enforcement investigations. The Centers are involved in understanding the threats the nation faces, identifying the capabilities gaps, and developing solutions to mitigate these threats. This work involves not only attorneys, but also engineers, computer scientists, and economists. It requires the expertise of a wide range of professionals. The Centers of Excellence are an important part of getting to the answers our partners need. The Centers are funded by the program’s new Forensic Science Research and Training program’s new Forensic Science Research and Training program.

These programs are designed to connect and network with the next generation of homogeneous experts, facilitating internships and mentorships for students and recent graduates both within CINA and elsewhere. CINA offers workforce development opportunities for the next generation of homeland security professionals.

CINA continues to welcome student opportunities abound at the upcoming CINA-hosted 2021 DHS Student Grand Challenge.

The Student Grand Challenge is held annually and sponsored by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and the Division of Violence Prevention (DVP). This unique competition is designed to address a significant Homeland Security issue.

Dr. Allison Redlich, Associate Professor, Director of CINA's National Forensic Science and Technology Centers, is excited about the event and how it contributes to the Centers’ mission to improve the nation’s security and prosperity by leveraging the latest research, development, and operational capabilities. The event is an important opportunity for students to showcase their research and network with professionals in the field.

The event will feature presentations, poster sessions, and networking opportunities with DHS components, federal, state, and local governments, and members of the academic, business, and other communities.

The Centers of Excellence (COE) Summit 2021 will be held May 17-21, 2021. The event will feature a poster competition and full schedule of presentations and networking at the DHS COE Capabilities Showcase.

Register now for the 2021 COE Summit.

Register Today

Visit the COE Capabilities Showcase

Watch the 2019 DHS COE Summit Video

Listen to the podcast

Visit the digital archive

Watch Dr. Quas’ recent talk in CINA’s Distinguished Speaker Series

Listen to the episode

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