Contents of this Month's Update:

Teams (SRTs) paired with faculty mentors to solve CINA mission-related challenges. This month, teams toured the Spy Museum in Washington D.C. and attended speaker presentations. Participants toured Mason’s outdoor Forensic Research and Training Center.

The teams presented situation analysis and recommendations on topics related to the week’s digital forensics, human trafficking, and collaboration skill building, which laid the foundation for future projects.

Throughout the week-long agenda, participants attended sessions on open source research, digital forensics, and human trafficking. The attendees from four university cohorts for the Center’s annual Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Summer Workshop.

CINA MSI Week offers life-transforming opportunities for students to learn about the impact of the pandemic on various fields of study. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for researchers to share their findings on new research on forensic interviews for minor victims of human trafficking.

Victims of Human Trafficking: Identifying and Interacting with Minor Victims of Human Trafficking is a newly published book exploring COVID’s impact on the field of forensic interviews and how this research is being disseminated for implementation.

Check out the podcast to hear what the research is saying, strategies to combat modern day slavery, and the work being done by the U.S. Intelligence Community.

Authors from multiple disciplines, including CINA Director, Jim Jones, and Louise Shelley, a University Professor, CINA Science Committee members David Weisburd and Louise Shelley were named recipients of the 2022 Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence, honoring Mason faculty members for their groundbreaking efforts in research, teaching, and service.

Two CINA Science Committee members recognized with Presidential Awards for Faculty Excellence. The Presidential Awards committee review team, which solicits nominations each year, is made up of faculty representatives, including prior award winners. The committee reviewed the impact, and diversity and inclusion. "We are proud to recognize them for their groundbreaking efforts in research, teaching, and service."

Kerry Riddle has been promoted to Assistant Director for Finance and Administration after serving as CINA’s Financial and Administrative Specialist. She has been with Mason for 18 years and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her position.

CINA recently brought on Luke McBride as a Financial and Administrative Specialist. Luke McBride’s background is in government and non-profit administration, with a focus on budgeting and financial management.

CINA Welcomes Luke McBride

In this role she leads project management for CINA’s dynamic science committee, MS2A1.

CINA Director Jim Jones discussed his experience in key organizational leadership roles at the National Reconnaissance Office, National Security Agency, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In the same week, I had the pleasure of hearing two domain experts talk about - you guessed it - data! In an event hosted by CINA, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney General’s office.

Computation and Homomorphic Encryption that allow sharing and operations on data without decrypting it - data, specifically the analysis of data to understand human trafficking networks, and the implications for data security.

To my point about interconnectedness, we attended a cybercrime workshop a few days later where government practitioners, academics, and industry experts talked about technologies for accelerating operational efficiency (CAOE) and the DHS Privacy Office.

For example, consider the data challenge: for both operations and research, how do we get it, use it, create data from it, and secure it? As we learn from each of these activities, I was struck by the interconnectedness of our problems, and how our solutions can impact and continue to impact the U.S. Intelligence Community.

We need to securely share data between different entities to understand and disrupt criminal networks, and solutions do exist - data analytics.

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