November 2020

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Thank you for your continued support of CINA. To ensure uninterrupted delivery of our email newsletters, please add us to your email list and allow for our domain to be whitelisted.

The Transition Advisory Board met for the first and only time on November 5, 2020 to fulfill the departmental directive to provide a final report on all the current Center and CINA activities. The Chancellor requested that all Directorates discontinue the Center and replace it with a new organization. The Board is now working on a transition plan for the Center and CINA.

We are excited to share with you our final report to the Department of Homeland Security. This report is available online at www.cina.gmu.edu. We have included a summary of our major activities throughout the year, and we hope you will find it informative and useful.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at info@cina.gmu.edu.

THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Brian Sager

CINA, in partnership with Redstone Arsenal’s BH Squad 12/Cyber, the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate’s Research and Development Division, and the U.S. Army, is excited to announce the launch of the Distinguished Speaker Series. The Series will bring together experts from academia, government, and industry to discuss cutting-edge research and technology in the areas of criminal investigations and network analysis.

The first event in the Series is scheduled for February 17, 2021, and will feature a talk by Martin Bouchard, a leading expert in the field of criminal investigations and network analysis. The event will be held online and is free to attend. For more information, please visit our website at www.cina.gmu.edu.

We are excited to continue to work with you all as we develop multidisciplinary approaches to address the disruption of criminal activities across the physical and cyber spaces. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any suggestions, as your feedback is fundamental to the success of our research endeavors.

The CINA Transition Advisory Board, formed this Fall, met in full on November 5, 2020. The board is working on a transition plan for the Center and CINA. The board consists of professionals with expertise in transitioning technology to DHS, other government entities, and the commercial sector, as well as experts in technology and the research and development communities.

The board reviewed four center projects nearing transition-ready status, and asked a lot of good and insightful questions, and provided suggestions on DHS components that could benefit from the research products, other government entities with potential interest, and the commercial sector.

The board also discussed the importance of maintaining partnerships with academia, government, and industry to ensure the continued success of the center.

We appreciate the time all of our board members dedicate to guiding the center's work, and we look forward to continuing to work with you all as we develop multidisciplinary approaches to address the disruption of criminal activities across the physical and cyber spaces.

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Do you want your organization to be listed in next month's newsletter? Let us know! We welcome submissions from all organizations in the areas of criminal investigations and network analysis.

CINA WELCOMES 2020-21 OPEN RFP WHITE PAPER SUBMISSIONS

CINA continues to welcome white paper submissions presenting research ideas intended to address questions and challenges that CINA, DHS, and/or its federal partners are currently facing, or are likely to face in the near future. The RFP is open from June 15, 2020 – June 14, 2021. The deadline for submission is December 15, 2020.

Submit your research ideas today and be listed in next month's newsletter. Submit your ideas on our website contact form here.

Daniel Kosmas

Police? Detectives? Or something new?

Kosmas is exploring how to model and disrupt human trafficking with a goal of developing quantitative tools to assist criminal justice practitioners in policy making for combatting human trafficking. His work will expand upon network interdiction models to appropriately model the nuances of how trafficking networks operate, and develop new solution methods that account for the dynamic nature of trafficking.

His work will be presented in a series of papers on a new methodological framework to model and disrupt human trafficking networks.

Kosmas has been awarded the 2020-21 Open RFP White Paper Grant to Support Research in Disrupting Human Trafficking Networks.

Kosmas has been awarded a grant from the Department of Homeland Security’s Science and Technology Directorate and the U.S. Army for a new project titled "Modeling and Disrupting Human Trafficking Networks." The project will use a combination of network science and machine learning techniques to develop new tools for criminal justice practitioners to use in their work.

The project will be led by Kosmas, who is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at George Mason University. The project will also involve collaboration with other faculty members from the university.

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