T H O U G H T S   F R O M   T H E   D I R E C T O R

Jim James

On August 15, 2020, we celebrated CINA’s 20th anniversary. It is “Your Home” in Criminal Intelligence and Analysis, and we have the opportunity to reflect on how far we’ve come. The past 20 years have been characterized by dramatic shifts in the way we understand and analyze complex social issues around the world. We have developed new partnerships, improved our services, and expanded our outreach. We are a part of the constantly evolving landscape of Intelligence and Analysis.

The Annual Meeting reflected on the past 12 months and the complex challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. We hosted our first virtual annual meeting and highlighted the diversity of our research projects. We heard from law enforcement agencies about the dismantling of human trafficking organizations and the effects of the pandemic. We also heard from students and faculty about their research on human trafficking during a global pandemic.

My two big takeaways from this last year are (1) the only constant in life is (unexpected) change, and (2) a good organization and team sees the opportunities in such a dynamic environment, thinks creatively, and pivots quickly, and not only survives but thrives.

In the past year, we have executed the second COE Summit, positioned three research projects for transition, launched a running OpenRFP, and investigated two MSI Summer Research Teams, all while managing a director transition and the effects of the pandemic. We have also increased our outreach by hosting two virtual webinars and a virtual panel.

We are looking forward to the next 20 years of CINA’s growth and development. We will continue to provide high-quality research, analysis, and training to meet the evolving needs of our stakeholders.

We are inviting you to our next annual meeting on September 22-23, 2021. It will be held virtually and will feature presentations on a variety of topics, including human trafficking, data analytics, and cybercrime. We will also have a virtual panel discussion on the impact of the pandemic on intelligence and analysis.

I hope to see you there. Please contact me at jimjames@gmu.edu if you have any questions or comments.