THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Joann Jones

On August 20, 2020, attended the CINA Summer Research Team: How "new normal" is changing the criminal justice field and what that means for law enforcement and research. CINA leadership and participants discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on research, law enforcement, and the future of criminal justice.

The annual meeting brought together 12 virtual panels on Monday and Tuesday. We heard from leading experts from around the country who discussed topics such as the impacts of COVID-19 on the justice system, the future of criminal justice research, and the role of technology in law enforcement. The meeting was a great opportunity to learn from experts and to network with colleagues.

My two big takeaways from this last year are (1) 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.

The Annual Meeting reflected on the last 12 months during which we helped plan and execute the second COE Summit, positioned three research projects for transition, launched the COE project on cartel smuggling, moved our Distinguished Speaker Series and other events online, produced a white paper to increase research project agility and timeliness, continued a multi-year partnership with the U.S. Secret Service, and are ready to launch a new program for fall 2021.

CINA is seeking white papers presenting research ideas intended to reduce crime, increase public safety, and advance national security. Visit our website’s digital archive for more information and apply any time during the RFP open period (June 2020 – June 2021).

CINA will prsent virtually on four lessons learned about homeland security and transnational crime. William Bryan, Director of the U.S. Secret Service, will provide a policy-level perspective on how the CINA Science Committee is working to advance the field of homeland security research.

Friday, September 18, 2020, 12:00pm- 1:30pm
Discussion TransnationalCrime Virtual Panel
Beyond 9/11- Homeland Security and Transnational/Transnational
What does it mean to "secure the homeland" in the twenty-first century? During this event, leading experts will provide strategic lessons and crucial recommendations for the future of homeland security. How do we use the tools of the digital age to enhance security and protect the homeland?

CINA’s 2020-21 Call for Proposals (CINA Open RFP 20-21) seeks proposals that present research ideas intended to reduce crime, increase public safety, and advance national security. The CINA Science Committee of experts will review the applications and select the four highest ranked papers to present virtually at the annual meeting in November 2020.

Virtual Event/ Social Outlaws: What Network
Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 12:00pm- 1:30pm
Virtual Event/ Finding Trafficking Networks in Serving Institutions.
Wednesday, September 16, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Speaker Omar Camarillo, Ph.D., a professor of criminal justice and sociology, and students of New Mexico University explored the connections between Mexican drug cartels and U.S.-based gangs and how the public perceives drug trafficking.

Over a recent summer, a faculty-student research team from Eastern University, Pennsylvania, and the Urban Institute at George Washington University, and members of the CINA Summer Research Team, carried out a study of the international sex trade. The research team presented their findings on October 14th and discussed how data analytics, AI, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies led to the dismantling of a large international sex trafficking operation.

Speaker Cecilia Torres, President and CEO of CINA, discussed the importance of research in understanding and preventing human trafficking.

Virtual Event/ Payment Ecosystem
Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Speaker Jenny Mosbacher, Ph.D., CINA’s Director of Research and Development, and Christina Bain, COE Program Manager, will present a paper on how cybercrime is being used to launder money and other illegal activity. The presentation will discuss how credit card transactions have increasingly become a conduit for money laundering and the facilitation of terrorism.

Payment Ecosystem Cybercrime Through the Online
Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Speaker David Weisburd, University of Delaware, will present a paper on strategies for reducing the use of credit cards in illegal activity. The presentation will discuss how law enforcement agencies are using data analytics and AI to identify and disrupt criminal networks.

The Evolution of Human Trafficking During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Council on
Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Speaker Allen Williams, Ph.D., a professor in the School of Social Work at the University of North Texas, and collaborators, will present a paper on how the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting human trafficking.

The CINA Summer Research Team members routinely work and interact with non-members. For high stakes law enforcement, cooperative efforts require the ability to communicate effectively and properly interact with non-members. The team presented their findings to a group of law enforcement officials and discussed how data analytics, AI, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies led to the dismantling of a large international sex trafficking operation.

Virtual Event/ Data Tells Us About Gangs
Wednesday, November 11, 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm
Speaker Martin Bouchard, Ph.D., a professor at the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University, will present a paper on how data analytics, AI, and collaboration with law enforcement agencies led to the dismantling of a large international sex trafficking operation.