**TOURS FROM THE DIRECTOR**

**Reflections from the Director**

In a year of the COVID-19 pandemic, our Homeland Security Systems Engineering graduate students have been challenged in a number of ways. They have demonstrated a great deal of flexibility and resilience in continuing their studies and completing their research. It has been inspiring to see them adapt and thrive in these difficult times.

Next week, they will complete their final exams. I want to wish them all the best as they finish up their coursework and start looking forward to their future careers. Please join me in congratulating them on their hard work and accomplishments.

**RESEARCH**

**CINA 2021 Annual RFP Open for Submissions**

We are excited to announce the opening of our 2021 Annual RFP for Submissions. This is an opportunity for researchers to propose projects that align with the mission of the CINA program, which focuses on Criminal Network Analysis and Dynamic Patterns of Criminal Activity. The submission deadline is January 29, 2021.

**NEWS**

**DHS S&T Communicator Receives Media & Community Relations Award**

According to Verrico, "DHS S&T does amazing work in research and development of technologies to improve our nation's security. It is fitting that we recognize individuals who ensure that the public learns about this great work. This award really belongs to them." Verrico added that the award recognizes the efforts of S&T communicators like Jeff Hardy to highlight the importance of research and development in homeland security.

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**


In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is implementing a new policy to allow for the remote delivery of firearms training to law enforcement agencies.

**DISTRIBUTED SPEAKER SERIES**

**March 7 - Cryptocurrency and Criminal Investigations**

Dr. Christopher Capone, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice, George Mason University, will discuss the role of cryptocurrency in criminal activities and the challenges of law enforcement in combating it.

**April 14 - Fighting Illicit Trade in the Form of Trademark Counterfeiting and Copyright Piracy**

Jennifer Durkin, Associate Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice, George Mason University, will examine the issues related to counterfeit goods and piracy and discuss strategies to combat them.

I look forward to our continued mutual success going forward.

Sincerely,
[Signature]