Thank you for reading these highlights, notable events, and accomplishments.

Sections include:
• COVID-19 Updates
• Transition to ODNI Updates
• Campus News
• Alumni Updates
• Virtual Events
• Publications
• Other News and Accomplishments
• Faculty Awards

COVID-19 Updates
Welcome to another special edition of NIU’s Quarterly. Due to COVID-19 this is the fourth unclassified version of the quarterly newsletter, capturing virtual events, publications, and accomplishments that have taken place throughout the winter.

NIU’s winter quarter proceeded through a challenging season with limited interruption and no on-campus transmission of COVID-19. NIU continued operations in a hybrid model of online and in-person classes to support social distancing on campus.

Because NIU’s main campus is located at an ODNI facility, leadership was able to coordinate COVID-19 vaccination appointments for students, faculty, and staff who opted to receive the vaccine through ODNI. NIU is continuing in the hybrid model for the spring quarter with masking, social distancing, and at-home daily health check requirements remaining in place.

NIU has continued virtual recruiting efforts and community engagement throughout the pandemic. This academic year, NIU has received and processed the largest number of spring quarter applications in NIU history, an increase of 27 percent compared to the year before. Part-time graduate program and certificate applications are still being accepted for the beginning of the next academic year, starting in the fall of 2021, CLICK HERE to learn more.

Transition to ODNI Updates
NIU’s transition to ODNI is scheduled for 20 June 2021. The reason for this transition date is a reprogramming action through the Intelligence Community Chief Financial Officer to the Office of Management and Budget to transfer funds from ODNI to DIA, covering the cost of NIU through the expiration of the transition authorization.

Personnel actions have been initiated for NIU employees who opted to transition to ODNI from DIA. NIU employees have received benefits briefings and attended sessions that covered ODNI’s promotion process, performance awards, and foreign language programs. The majority of faculty and staff are transitioning to ODNI with the institution, and the transition will have no immediate impact on current students.

NIU.edu
As the Nation’s accredited, degree-granting institution of higher education operating at the TS//SCI level, NIU continues to serve the IC through education, research and engagement.

Campus News

Students Organize a Chapter of the International Association for Intelligence Education (IAFIE) at NIU

The Delta Chapter of IAFIE at NIU seeks to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas in an effort to strengthen the bonds between intelligence professionals, students, and teachers. The Delta Chapter has held regular meetings, authored bylaws, voted in the first team of officers, coordinated with University leadership, and already hosted an inaugural event titled, “The Past, Present, and Future of Intelligence Education.” The Delta Chapter continues to integrate closely with faculty and staff to publish and present student research more frequently and to wider audiences. The Delta Chapter is also building stronger relationships with other schools in the National Capital Region and international IAFIE counterparts.

Students Establish Women, Intelligence & National Security (NIU WINS) Organization

NIU WINS has 26 members, including students spanning all academic programs and faculty. As both students and practitioners, this group aims to promote and address gender issues in the Intelligence Community through combined awareness and efforts aligned with member interests. Current efforts include standing up a networking and mentoring initiative, organizing events, and working with the Women, Peace, and Security Consortium to support the larger National Capital Region’s efforts.

Alumni Updates

Alumni Volunteer to Mentor Current Students

In response to a request from the NIU WINS chapter, the NIU Alumni Association put out a call for volunteers to serve as mentors for current students. The response was resounding, with 43 alumni stepping up to volunteer as mentors. This initiative, which binds current and former students closely for the first time in a concerted way, supports the shared goal of applying the NIU alumni network and experiences to support current students through their academic journey and beyond.

Alumna Appointed as Sergeant at Arms of the United States Senate

NIU is proud to see Karen Gibson ’97 (MG, USA ret) appointed as the Senate Sergeant at Arms, taking on that important role at a historic time in U.S. history. Gibson retired last year after a 33-year Army career culminating in her assignment as the Director for Partner Engagement at ODNI. She joined alumni for a “From Generation-to-Generation” dinner in December 2019.

Student Affairs Spotlight - Major Jess Perez (MSTI ’21)

Major Perez serves as the Class Leader and the Chair of the Student Senate. Through this Student Spotlight, she provides insights into her professional journey and her student experience at NIU. Reflecting on her time at NIU, she recounts, “NIU will undoubtedly contribute to my career development. The relationships I have made while at NIU have allowed me to gain new perspectives about the various IC organizations. The experience has also challenged me to think critically about the future of national security and how cyber will remain a relevant element.” CLICK HERE to read more.

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Virtual Events

NIU Seminar Series
The seminar series continued its string of successful and well-attended sessions throughout the winter, hosting 14 events and drawing more than 1,700 attendees from across the IC and DoD. These events covered topics of interest to include domestic homeland terrorism threats to the United States with Georgetown University professor Dr. Bruce Hoffman and foreign money and influence on U.S. domestic politics presented by an FBI intelligence analyst who initiated this research as an NIU Research Fellow.

The Office of Research hosted noted panelists Dr. Michael Plummer of Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Dr. Amy Searight of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Wilson Center fellow Ms. Shihoko Goto to discuss whether China has gained an economic and strategic advantage in the Indo-Pacific. OOR also sponsored an ongoing seminar series, A Decade Beyond the Arab Spring: Implications for Intelligence and National Security, addressing policy and security ramifications in Syria, North Africa, and China.

NIU presidential fellow Mr. John Caves presented his co-authored paper, The Future of Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Update published by the National Intelligence Press, and Mr. Eric Brewer from the Center for Strategic International Studies discussed his co-authored report, Toward a More Proliferated World? The Geopolitical Forces That Will Shape the Spread of Nuclear Weapons. Finally, OOR highlighted IC history and leadership through a seminar on the documentary, The Man Nobody Knew, In Search of My Father CIA Spymaster William Colby, with his son and documentary filmmaker Carl Colby.

Publications

Faculty Publication, "Red Means Stop, Cyber Means Nothing"
Mel Miller, faculty member in the School of Science and Technology Intelligence, published her article in The Cyber Edge column in Armed Forces Communications & Electronics Association's (AFCEA) SIGNAL online magazine. CLICK HERE to view the publication.

Faculty Members Co-Author Chapter in E-Book titled Strategic Latency Unleashed: The Role of Technology in a Revisionist Global Order and the Implications for Special Operations Forces
Dr. Brian Holmes and Dr. Michael David authored Chapter 17 titled, “Emerging Trends in Flexible Electronics: Opportunities and Challenges for a Clandestine Community,” which begins on page 241 of the e-book. This publication was sponsored by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and U.S. Special Operations Command. CLICK HERE to view the publication.

NIU Presidential Scholar Publishes The Future of Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Update
Mr. John Caves Jr., NIU’s first embedded Presidential Scholar and member of the National Defense University along with his colleague Dr. Seth Carus, Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction at National Defense University published the study. Their book assesses and offers policy considerations regarding the shifting roles of the great powers, new pressures on arms control and nonproliferation regimes, and highlights other emerging technologies with WMD relevance including artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum systems, and additive manufacturing. CLICK HERE to view the publication.

Faculty Publishes Book Review Article in Intelligence and National Security Journal
Dr. Kevin Riehle's book review article discusses two recently published books, Striking Back: Overt and Covert Options to Combat Russian Disinformation, by Thomas Kent, and How to Lose the Information War: Russia, Fake News, and the Future of Conflict, by Nina Jankowicz. CLICK HERE to access the article.

Faculty Publication, “U.S. Intelligence Officers Face a Complicated Future Without a Better Approach”
Dr. Brian Holmes published his article online in Homeland Security Today. CLICK HERE to access the article.
Research Short - Taiwan: Coronavirus as a Catalyst for Self-Determination
Dr. Phuong Hoang and Dr. Janice Hinton discuss how Taiwan’s success in containing coronavirus infections—with only 77 domestic cases out of 942 total and 9 deaths as of February 22, 2021—gives Taipei a rare opportunity to showcase its leadership in biotech and cybersecurity, push for greater inclusion in multilateral organizations, and establish itself as a sovereign entity separate from mainland China.
Citizens’ record-high identification as Taiwanese instead of Chinese and their strong public support for President Tsai suggest she has a mandate for pursuing further sovereignty. These ripening conditions for independence have prompted Beijing to up overt threats against Taipei, making consistent U.S. support for Taiwan’s integration into the global community critical to the island’s pursuit of autonomy. It is posted on the Office of Research IntelShare page (CAC required). CLICK HERE to view the publication.

Research Short - Measuring the Influence of China’s Belt and Road Initiative
MAJ Alex Oliver (NIU MSSI 2020) and Dr. Adam Jungdahl examine the prevailing narrative among observers in academic, policy, and intelligence circles that China’s effort to expand its international influence through aggressive outward foreign direct investment, including under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), will diminish U.S. global diplomatic power. By measuring China’s geopolitical influence longitudinally—through alignment in United Nations General Assembly voting and affinity expressed in foreign public opinion polling over time—this study finds that China’s relative influence appears to be in decline. This raises the possibility that the IC may overestimate the importance of China’s foreign direct investment initiatives, including the BRI. It is posted on the Office of Research IntelShare page (CAC required). CLICK HERE to view the publication.

Research Short - China’s Sky River: Raining Disruption
Dr. David Blauvelt explores how integrated assessment models (IAMs) can provide insight into the environmental and economic impacts of China’s Tianhe, or “Sky River,” project and other countries’ bold technological attempts to respond to climate change and increasing demand for natural resources. This Research Short examines a component of an IAM called Xanthos, a global hydrological model, that was used to quantify the potential environmental and transboundary ramifications of China’s proposed Sky River project.
China must overcome numerous technical obstacles in deploying the thousands of cloud-seeding chambers the project requires, which will need to be supported by planes, ground artillery, and monitoring satellites—but, if successful, Sky River will transport as much as 10 billion cubic meters of water from southern China to its arid north to meet urbanization, agricultural, and mining demands. It is posted on the Office of Research IntelShare page (CAC required). CLICK HERE to view the publication.

Faculty Publication, "Soviet Intent at the Dawn of the Cold War: Igor Gouzenko’s Revelations about GRU Intelligence Taskings"
Dr. Kevin Riehle published this article in the Journal of Intelligence History. In this article, Dr. Riehle analyzes the materials that GRU code clerk Igor Gouzenko brought with him when he defected in September 1945. The article shows that the Soviet Union was establishing a clandestine source network with access to military intelligence information in Canada, Great Britain, and the United States, demonstrating Soviet intent before World War II ended. Although the article examines a historical case, a similar analytic model might be useful in analyzing the targets of the SolarWinds operation, along with the numerous other Russian intelligence operations that have been revealed publicly in the past decade. CLICK HERE to access the article.
Faculty Co-Authors Textbook Titled *Introduction to Intelligence: Institutions, Operations, and Analysis*


**Publications Continued**

**Other News and Accomplishments**

**Faculty Members and Alumnus Present at Application Development Virtual (ADV) Summit.** On 19 February, LTC Tom Pike, Dr. Mark Bailey, and Rob Colter (MSTI ‘20) virtually presented their research titled, "Critical Dynamics of the Python Ecosystem." Through an analysis of the Python Package Index (PyPI) and related GitHub repositories, they showed that Python make up the vast majority dependencies within the ecosystem, creating critical nodes within the Python ecosystem. They also showed that the Python ecosystem fosters a speciation of key contributors that maintain the critical libraries of Python. The first species comprises expert contributors who provide the majority of contributions to one critical Python library. The second species comprises expert contributors who make a significant (typically more than 100) contributions to multiple critical libraries and appear to serve as a bridge between key libraries. The ADV Summit brings together hundreds of developers to learn about development resources and connect with others in the IC and DOD development community.

**Faculty Member Participates in the Federal Cyber-Supply Chain Risk Management Forum.** On 19 February, Dr. Michael W. David was added as a member of the forum, which fosters collaboration and the exchange of cyber supply chain risk management information among federal organizations to improve the security of federal supply chains. Other members come from the Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Defense, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the General Services Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

**Faculty Presents at the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center, Artificial Intelligence Community of Interest.** On 18 February, LTC Tom Pike presented “Optimizing the Military's Collective Intelligence for Decision Advantage” virtually to the group. His presentation focused on re-understanding the computational ecosystem as the next evolution of knowledge sharing and how that reveals the power of AI is not in the algorithms but in the ecosystem that exploits it. From this new perspective, it becomes easier to identify novel possibilities for development, as well as obstacles inhibiting full exploitation of the new information environment. This perspective advises how the military can leverage the computational ecosystem to work as a coherent entity more effectively and ensure decision advantage.

**Faculty Guest Lectures for Georgetown University Graduate Program in National Security Affairs.** On 18 February, Dr. Michael W. David provided a presentation and question and answer session to a class of Georgetown graduate students. The course is related to Russian and adversary information and cyber influence operations. Dr. David provided an overview of the U.S. Cyber Command “Defend Forward” concept and how it fits into cyber-related initiatives contained in the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act.

**Faculty Member is Guest on "Candid Leadership" Podcast.** On 9 February, Dr. LaMesha Craft discussed key tenets of leading to empower, accepting failure as part of growth, and the importance of resilience and how leaders and managers can improve organizations and teams. She also shared her three “Es”: engaging, educating, and empowering. The Candid Leadership podcast published the conversation, episode 13, [HERE](#).
Other News and Accomplishments Continued

Faculty Member Coordinates AFCEA Virtual Webinar, “Intelligence Analysis Tradecraft in an Open and Rapid World, Part 2.” Dr. Brian Holmes played a major role in the framing and coordination of the AFCEA-sponsored virtual webinar, which occurred on 9 February. The event focused on the strengths and weaknesses of open source analysis and corresponding lessons learned.

Faculty Member Invited to Support the National Intelligence Collection Officer – Cyber (NICO-Cyber) C-SCRM Project. On 8 February, Dr. Michael W. David was asked to assist the ODNI NICO-Cyber in a project related to how cyber collection activities can enhance the security and reliability of critical infrastructure supply chains. Dr. David has provided materials and facilitated appropriate contacts within the IC and the effort is ongoing.

Faculty Member Participates in Carnegie Experts Group on U.S.-Russia Relations. On 5 February, in the third of a series of discussions, Dr. Stacy Closson met with American experts on Russia to discuss the future of U.S.-Russia relations, including domestic unrest and implications for Russian leadership. The roundtable is funded by the Carnegie Endowment of New York.

Faculty Member Serves as Awards Chair for the International Law section of International Studies Association, Best Book Panel. On 29 January, Dr. Jennifer Davis served as the Awards Chair, having put together a committee last August to solicit nominations from publishers and select 2021's Best Book in International Law. The committee met multiple times in December and January to discuss over 40 books and select nominees. She has written the formal award letter, notified the author, and submitted the selection to ISA for announcement and recognition at the 2021 Virtual Annual Convention. She will also be responsible for chairing the panel on the Best Book during the event.

Faculty Member Participates in Woodrow Wilson Center Podcast on U.S.-Russia Relations. On 29 January, Dr. Stacy Closson participated in a Russia Roundtable for the Woodrow Wilson Center's podcast “Need to Know.” She addressed questions on U.S.-Russia relations concerning threat perceptions and cyber security alongside other Kennan Fellows. The podcast is part of a series for Congressional staff. CLICK HERE to listen to the podcast.

Faculty Member Presents at the Annual Intelligence Community Centers for Academic Excellence, Principle Investigator Development Summit. On 28 January, Dr. Brian Holmes discussed the valuable partnerships that NIU has with IC CAE school programs.

Faculty Member Co-Leads the Soviet Intelligence History Research Group. On 15 January, Dr. Kevin Riehle co-led the first meeting of the Soviet Intelligence History Research Group, an informal group of scholars from around the world who meet virtually to discuss projects, resources, and challenges associated with researching Soviet intelligence history. The group is subordinate to the North American Society of Intelligence History. It is intended to support research into the roots of Soviet intelligence that form the foundations of Russia’s actions today.

Faculty Member Gives Two Guest Lectures for DIA's Joint Counterintelligence Training Academy. On both 14 January and 10 December, Mr. Joseph O'Neill provided virtual guest lectures for DIA's Joint Counterintelligence Training Academy in Quantico, VA. The topic of each session was China's propaganda and influence operations. Approximately 170 personnel attended the January event and 50 attended in December.

Faculty Members Engage with Department of the Treasury. On 13 January, LTC Tom Pike and LTC Catherine Miller met virtually with two representatives from the Department of the Treasury and discussed opportunities to coordinate on economics education, guest lectures, and research. These discussions have led to invitations to attend Treasury courses on illicit finance and threat finance.
Other News and Accomplishments Continued

Faculty Member Presents to the North American Society for Intelligence History. On 12 January, Dr. Kevin Riehle presented a lecture on his book, *Soviet Defectors: Revelations of Renegade Intelligence Officers, 1924-1954*, at an online forum sponsored by the North American Society of Intelligence History. The audience included 50 historians from around the world.

Faculty Member Discusses IC Professional Development with Analysts. On 8 January, Dr. Eric Freiwald participated in a virtual professional development seminar for all-source intelligence analysts. This event was hosted by CENTCOM's Pakistan Branch and the seminar focused on applying the contemporary lessons learned from the most costly defeat of the German armed forces in World War II: "Operation BAGRATION: Incorporating Military Denial and Deception into Campaign Planning."

Faculty Member Speaks at the Embolden Non-profit Organization. On 29 December, Dr. Brian Holmes virtually spoke to high school students from low-income communities and diverse backgrounds about his IC career and emerging technologies. The non-profit Embolden organization has a student leadership program in National Security, set up to expose high school students to career opportunities and ethical leadership in the field. Dr. Holmes was invited by NIU part-time graduate student, Jimmy Zhang, who is the Director of National Security Programs for Embolden.

Faculty Member Discusses Best Practices in Center of Gravity Analysis. On 16 December, Dr. Eric Freiwald participated as a guest speaker in a discussion of best practices for analyzing the centers of gravity of foreign armed forces, "Critical Factors Roundtable Discussion." Senior analysts in DIA's Asia Pacific Regional Center are drafting a paper on the topic for IC analysts. Other invited participants included an Australian military officer who published an article on the topic in Joint Force Quarterly.

Faculty Member Presents on Behalf of the Woodrow Wilson Center Discussing the Future of U.S.-Russia Relations. On 11 December, Dr. Closson participated in a virtual panel on the future of U.S.-Russia relations, discussing three main frameworks of international relations to assess how interactions and relationships may evolve under the new administration. The event recording is available HERE.

Faculty Member Participates in Carnegie Discussion on U.S.-Russia Relations. On 11 December, in the second of a series of discussions, Dr. Stacy Closson met with American experts on Russia to discuss the future of U.S.-Russia relations, including areas of potential conflict and cooperation. The roundtable is funded by the Carnegie Endowment of New York.

Faculty Member Participates in Panel Discussion for Italian Government, Military, and Academic Audience. On 4 December, Dr. Kevin Riehle participated in a panel discussion on the topic of Chinese and Russian economic and science and technology intelligence threats. Attendees included approximately 120 Italian civilian government and military personnel, and individuals from the private sector and academia.

Research Fellow Completes One-Year Research Program. In December, Mr. Julian Meade completed the year-long Research Fellowship with NIU’s Ann Caracristi Institute for Intelligence Research. His research focused on great power tension in the Arctic and the prospects for cooperation, competition, and conflict in the region by 2050. During his fellowship, Julian published a Research Short on the implications of Russia’s new Arctic strategy for great power tension over the Northern Sea Route (NSR), and subsequently produced a podcast on his Research Short topic. He also organized and moderated a NIU virtual seminar with guests from the Woodrow Wilson Center’s Polar Institute, discussing Russia, the West, and great power tension in the Arctic. Julian’s research monograph, which explores alternative futures, which could lead to great power conflict over the NSR by 2050, is pending publication.
Other News and Accomplishments Continued

Faculty Member Featured in Georgetown Security Studies Review. In December, Dr. Sandra Grady was featured in a publication of the Georgetown University Security Studies Program, *Georgetown Security Studies Review*. The student-led interview included questions about ethnographic research, disinformation from a narrative perspective, and careers in national security. [CLICK HERE](#) to read the article.

Faculty Member Provides Bi-weekly Support Ex Officio to National Academies of Sciences - Army Board on Research & Development. Dr. Brian Holmes currently serves as an *ex officio* member to the National Academies of Sciences - Army Board on Research & Development. In this capacity he is enabled to attend all meetings and sub-projects executed by the Board, nominate NIU faculty to Academy projects, and provide academic substantive and intelligence threat information to the Board at multiple classification levels.

Faculty Awards

Faculty Members Receive the DIA COVID-19 Challenge Coin. On 1 February, Dr. Mitchell Simmons and LTC Jeff Bacon received this award for exemplary efforts supporting and providing expertise in response to the pandemic. Dr. Simmons used his depth of expertise in traditional and non-traditional threats against critical infrastructure, along with his knowledge of highly contagious 20th and 21st century pandemics, to publish and co-published a total of five articles on COVID-19 since March of 2020. Combined, these five DIA prepublication approved articles have been read nearly 11,000 times on the premier media outlet Homeland Security Today. LTC Bacon volunteered and served as the Chief of Staff/Team Lead for Data Analytics and Predictive Modeling, for the Department of Defense Coronavirus-2019 Task Force. LTC Bacon’s efforts ensured that DoD leadership was provided with scenario-based COVID-19 modeling that includes disease impacts on the operational force, generating force, fourth estate, DoD civilian workforce, and military health system users.

Mr. William Colligan Receives the College of Strategic Intelligence Faculty of the Quarter Award. Mr. Colligan engaged with the Joint Staff to ensure the continued accreditation of NIU’s Joint Professional Military Education program, and was responsible for the memorandum of agreement between NIU and the J7. Mr. Colligan’s efforts ensured that the JPME program will continue to thrive after NIU transitions to the ODNI.