

## The Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences



### Largest Unclassified Terrorism Database in the Nation Distinguishes Lee College

A new grant from the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C. has enabled the Lee College to significantly expand its Institute for the Study of Violent Groups (ISVG).

This latest grant brings the total amount of outside funding for the institute to nearly \$2.5 million and is enhancing the college's reputation as one of the nation's top criminal justice and forensic science programs.

The ISVG is the foremost organization conducting open-source collection and analysis of information about violent groups, such as terrorist organizations, gangs, and political and religious extremist groups both in the United States and around the globe. Its purpose is to collect and organize data from news media,

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magazines, government reports, court records, books and Internet sources, then analyze the data with predictive modeling tools to aid law enforcement and military organizations combating crime and terrorism.

The institute currently employs about 100 people, mostly students, as readers. Not only do they digest immense volumes of material on a daily basis, but the scope of specific projects they are working on is also remarkably diverse, says Dan Mabrey, Ph.D., assistant professor of Criminal Justice and executive director of the ISVG. Current projects

include research on self-propelled semi-submersible vehicles used to traffic drugs and relationships between transnational gangs in South America and radical Jihadist organizations in the Middle East. In addition, the institute provides all of the data for the Department of Homeland Security's Global Terrorism Database.

"We are the largest unclassified database in the United States," says Mabrey, flatly. "The grants have enabled us to acquire and deploy many leading data analysis tools currently used by federal law enforcement

organizations. It gives our students hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technology and an advantage when trying to break into the government or private sector job markets."

"Very few colleges do what we do," says Richard Ward, Ph.D., dean of the Lee College and former dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in Texas. Ward created the ISVG there in 2002 and expanded it when he came to the Lee College two years ago. "There's a growing need for law enforcement professionals with technology backgrounds, and we're preparing students to fill that need." The University of New Haven is the only college in Connecticut offering a Ph. D. in criminal justice.