The Economic Crime, Justice Studies, and Cybersecurity (ECJSC) department hosted its first Symposium on Wednesday, February 18. This symposium was organized to “paint a picture” of our three undergraduate programs (Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, Economic Crime Investigation (ECI), and Cybersecurity), and what they have to offer. High school juniors and seniors and their parents from across New York State were invited to attend the symposium.

The symposium program entailed welcoming statements from members of the ECJSC faculty, a case study, and student and professional career panels. The case study titled, “Following the Money,” involved tracing the criminal activities of international terrorists, including stealing sensitive information, generating illegal funds, synthetic identity theft and money laundering. Encompassing aspects of all three undergraduate programs, the faculty members presenting the scenario were able to engage the visiting students in the areas of criminal justice, economic crime and cybersecurity.

Dr. Timothy Ball, Assistant Professor-Cybersecurity, presented the original case scenario of the database breach. The scenario involved a cell of terrorists and the different roles that each member played in developing a finance plan to fund terrorist activities. Beginning with a breach of a secure database, the terrorists’ main goal was to obtain personally identifiable information (PII) on individuals, to later form false identities. Dr. Ball explained that the terrorists were stopped from getting in the “front door” of the database, but were successful at entering via the “backdoor.”

Professor Suzanne Lynch, Professor of Practice - Economic Crime, then spoke to the money laundering aspect of the scenario. She explained that other members of the terrorist cell have an expertise in money laundering, who were able to generate funds through charging large dollar amounts on stolen credit cards, obtaining the purchased merchandise, and then re-selling the purchased merchandise to inflate terrorist funding.

Dr. Donald Rebovich, Professor of Economic Crime, spoke to the identity fraud portion of the scenario. Another member of the terrorist cell had an expertise in creating false identities, taking the compromised credit card numbers and PII to form new identities for those terrorists partaking in illegal activities.

Professor Bernard Hyman, Professor of Practice - Economic Crime, concluded the scenario by explaining the conventional means of the criminal investigation and prosecution process. Several of the terrorists involved were arrested by a task force of local, state and
Faculty Spotlight: Lawrence Dillon

Professor Lawrence Dillon grew up in Butler, Pennsylvania. The town of Butler is in the rural western part of the state, and is most famous for the childhood home of Terry Hanratty and “Punxsutawney Phil,” and presidential candidate and US Senator, Rick Santorum. After graduating college at nearby Westminster College, he attended New York Law School in Manhattan, New York, located near the foot of the then World Trade Towers. Before attending law school, Professor Dillon promised his college pals that he would “herd sheep in Montana before he would ever practice criminal defense” and would never “hang a shingle” as a solo practitioner. He is the perfect example of why you should “never-say-never.” Dillon’s very first job after being admitted to the Bar, was as an assistant public defender.

Serendipity brought Professor Dillon to Utica, New York. His law school study partner, Michael A. Arcuri, was from Utica. Arcuri later became Oneida County District Attorney and U.S. Congressman, and then tipped Dillon off about an opening in the Public Defender’s Office. They hired him and as luck would have it, his secretary was best friends with his future wife, Lorie, with whom he has been married to for 28 years.

Professor Dillon was fortunate to be later appointed as an Assistant County Attorney and Chief Prosecutor in Oneida County Family Court. This was a perfect segue for Dillon to begin a new life teaching in the classroom at Utica College. He began as an adjunct, teaching Issues of Juvenile Justice and American Corrections in 1994.Over the course of time, Dillon was also tasked to teach Jurisprudence of the Criminal Law and Constitutional Law courses as well.

Professor Dillon is exceptionally proud of his contributions to CRJ 377, Comparative Criminal Justice-Study Abroad. In January of 2006, he began teaching CRJ 377 as a course that was offered as a two-week “winter term” course. Professor Dillon and his 11 students traveled to the UK and Ireland, spending a week in each country. While enjoying the culture and customs of the European Union, the group was primarily hosted by Her Majesty’s Prison Service in the UK and the Irish Prison Service in Ireland. Since that maiden voyage, Professor Dillon has been back to Ireland five times, Scotland and the UK twice. As CRJ 377 further developed, Professor Dillon offered the course in semesters in which the course had never been offered before, during the spring, summer and fall semesters.

Success for any professor can be measured in the career advancement of his or her students. Recently Dillon was blessed by a visit with one of the students who travelled to Scotland with him in the January term. The student remarked that of all his classes at UC, CRJ 377 was the most memorable. That student is now a detective in the New Paltz Police Department as well as the President of the Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association (PBA).

For the past eighteen years, Professor Dillon has been graced with the appointment as an Assistant Attorney General for New York State. Professor Dillon has gained a deep appreciation for public service as a governmental lawyer. That appreciation has extended into the classroom. Professor Dillon has a mantra “The 7-Ps” that has been introduced to every classroom gathering each semester that he has taught. This mantra, “prior-proper-preparation, that prevents-p***-poor-performance” has served his students, as well as himself, throughout the years. Every prior proper plan always has a plan “B,” according to Dillon. A former student who has been employed as a probation officer in Herkimer County sought Professor Dillon out in court recently, to simply thank him for that basic, yet practical, philosophy. “It doesn’t get any better than that,” said Professor Dillon.

Correction to the ECJSC Chronicle Cybersecurity Residency article (page five, January 30, 2015): Additional members of the ECJSC team that did attend the Cybersecurity Residency in Sarasota, FL, included Professor Gonnella and Professor Riddell. Members from our online programs team were also in attendance to assist with the four-day residency program.
On November 22, there were signs that SONY Pictures’ computer system had been compromised and SONY initially said they were dealing with an “IT matter” according to BBC.com. However SONY later acknowledged that they had in fact been hacked, calling it an attack that comprised of “malicious criminal acts”. A relatively unknown group calling itself #GOP, which was later identified as Guardians of Peace, claimed they were behind the attack.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) launched an investigation into the cyber-attack which eventually led them to believe that North Korea was behind the attack. North Korea has since denied involvement or support of the hackers attack on SONY. The nation’s ability to conduct cyber warfare is not known.

The hackers reaped a lot of information and data from SONY that was both damaging to the company’s reputation as well as their profits. The hackers obtained the movie Annie, starring Cameron Diaz, an early version of a script for the next James Bond movie, Spectre and Brad Pitt’s Fury turned up on illegal file-sharing sites and were downloaded at least one million times. In addition, much of SONY’s private company information was exposed to the public, including but not limited to bosses’ salaries and employees’ social security information. There were also emails released that revealed female movie stars were paid less than their male co-stars. Also, Angelina Jolie was branded a “minimally talented spoiled brat” in a private email from producer Scott Rudin.

Around a month after the hackers launched the attack on SONY Pictures, the results initially led Hollywood Studios to cancel the release of the comedy, The Interview, which involves a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. The hackers warned cinemas against screening “The Interview,” claiming that they would attack cinemas for showing the film. In the message, the Guardians of Peace sent to SONY they mentioned a 9/11 type of attack in response to SONY’s “greed.” The movie’s New York premiere was cancelled and cinemas cancelled screenings. SONY’s decision was greeted with incredulity by some in Hollywood as well as the White House. On December 23, SONY announced that the film would have a limited theatrical release and be made available for download. It was downloaded more than two-million times in the first few days of release, and earned $15,000,000. Professor of Practice-Cybersecurity, Austen Givens, recently gave an interview about this matter on the radio station TBS eFM 101.3 based out of Seoul, South Korea. In Professor Givens’ opinion, “The North Korean attack on Sony Pictures represents the first successful cyberterrorist attack in history. Pyongyang targeted a civilian company for political reasons, and severely damaged Sony Pictures’ corporate reputation in the process. This act underlines the importance of firms hardening their computer networks, and sets a dangerous precedent for future cyber conflicts.”

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federal law enforcement officers (those with criminal justice, economic crime and cybersecurity backgrounds).

Following the case study, the professional career panel took place. This panel consisted of Chief Tim Paradise of the Ilion, NY Police Department; Michelle Kline, Team Leader, Financial Intelligence Unit, Community Bank; Ryne Cornacchia, Cyber Security Analyst, NBT Bank; David DelVecchio, Commissioner of Finance, City of Syracuse; Joshua Garcia, Compliance Analyst, AmeriCU Credit Union; and Leslie Corbo, Senior Engagement Manager, PhishMe Inc. In conclusion of the professional panel, Dr. Rebovich said to the audience, “You can make a career out of whatever discipline you choose.”

Next, the student panel kicked off. The student panel consisted of current students in our criminal justice, economic crime and cybersecurity programs, including Danielle Alpi, Steve Oliveira, Jared Platt, and Angeline Brennan. Internships were a hot topic amongst students and parents. The student panel assured the audience that UC has prestigious internship placement with industry partners.
Student Spotlight: Babatunde Falodun

Babatunde Falodun is a current graduate student in the Master of Science in Cybersecurity program at Utica College, specializing in cyber intelligence and cyber operations.

Thus far, Mr. Falodun’s experience with Utica College and the program has been positive. Prior to attending Utica College, Mr. Falodun also considered pursuing a degree at the University of Maryland and the University of South Florida. After careful consideration, Falodun selected Utica College based on certain virtues of the program such as the professors and instructors being active, seasoned practitioners in such a relatively new field of study.

Mr. Falodun believes that the Cybersecurity program here at Utica College is one of the better programs out there, having been one of the first programs to be designated as a new National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance and Cyber Defense Education by the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. “This only adds to its standing as a remarkable program,” said Mr. Falodun. He said that the balance between the practicals (labs) and the subsequent writing workload is well suited to off campus students with busy schedules because of the integral flexibility offered by professors and instructors alike.

Currently, Mr. Falodun is a Financial Services Manager with the Coca-Cola Company and has been with the corporation for almost five years. He manages a team responsible for the management and maintenance of master data/customer master data policies, procedures and controls to effectively satisfy the system requirements for Coca-Cola North America. In addition to those duties, he is also a Project Manager/Business Lead responsible for the coordination of system realignment activities involving 30 plus applications for the sales and distribution subsidiary of the corporation which involves supply chain planning, pricing, finance, forecasting, reporting, demand planning etc. Mr. Falodun believes his experience at Coca-Cola so far has been incredibly informative and a valuable one.

With regard to his plans for the future, Mr. Falodun has not conclusively decided on what direction or what area of cybersecurity he will be pursuing after graduation. Mr. Falodun has a list of options that he is carefully considering. Given that Mr. Falodun has a considerable amount of experience in finance operations and systems management, two of the areas he is interested are IT assurance and cyber risk management.

Later in June of 2015, he will be taking the Certified Information Systems Manager (CISM) certification exam and hopefully toward the end of 2015, he will take the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) exam. These certifications amongst others will be valuable towards future career changes and development.

Faculty Highlight

Chet Hosmer serves as a visiting professor at Utica College teaching in the Master of Science in Cybersecurity program. He is also an adjunct faculty member at Champlain College in the Masters of Science in Digital Forensic Science Program. Chet Hosmer is the founder and technical author at Python Forensics, Inc. a non-profit organization focused on the collaborative development of open source investigative technologies using the Python programming language. Before founding Python Forensics, Chet founded WetStone Technologies where he most recently served as Senior Vice President and Chief Scientist.

Visiting Professor of Cybersecurity, Chet Hosmer, was recently featured in the National CyberWatch Center, February 2015 newsletter. The article continues to speak to Professor Hosmer’s accomplishments, as well as his published books. The full article can be found via the National CyberWatch website.