Senator Gillibrand visits Utica College

On Monday, November 10, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, made an afternoon visit to Utica College to discuss UC’s Cybersecurity programs, research, and initiatives. Senator Gillibrand was greeted by UC Executive Vice President, Laura Casamento, Dean of the School of Business and Justice Studies, Dr. James Norrie, and Associate Dean of the School of Business and Justice Studies, William Virkler as well as several members of the press. Senator Gillibrand was taken on a tour of the ECJSC building. First she received a tour of the Computer Forensics Teaching Laboratory and the Economic Crime Laboratory. Following that, Senator Gillibrand received a tour of the secure research area, the Northeast Cyber Forensics Center (NCFC), and the Center for Identity Management and Information Protection by Professor of Practice Raymond Philo.

The NCFC is a partnership of academic, government and private sector resources that make available new research, development and services in the digital forensics field, in addition to the operation of the state-of-the-art computer crime laboratory. The NCFC deals with data recovery, cellular phone forensics, expert witness testimony, computer forensics, and data sanitization.

Following the tour of the facility, Senator Gillibrand met with faculty and students for a discussion of Utica College, the programs, research, initiatives, and her pending bills in Washington D.C. relating to cybercrime and cyber threats. Dean Norrie began by talking a little bit about UC, the Undergraduate programs (Criminal Justice, Economic Crime Investigation, and Cybersecurity and Information Assurance), the Graduate programs (Economic Crime Management and Cybersecurity), the faculty, the research being conducted here, as well as the needs of UC. After, Associate Dean Virkler and Professor Philo introduced themselves formally, Professor Giordano explained further how the programs at UC are geared toward helping to fight cybercrime. Following that, Senator Gillibrand had the floor to discuss her bills in D.C. and to discuss the work UC has done in preparing its students for careers in cyber related positions. Gillibrand’s bill, Cyber Information Sharing Tax Credit Act, calls for small business and big businesses alike to join Information Sharing and Analysis Centers (ISACs) in

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On campus there are two organizations that represent the ideals of those in the criminal justice field; those are the Cyber Patriots and the Organization of Justice Studies (OJS). Each organization has different focuses, goals, and benefits from being a member.

The OJS is an organization that takes pride in and puts heavy focus on exposing its members to the criminal justice, economic crime, and cyber-crime aspects of society and community. The OJS does this through educational and recreational events such as volunteering opportunities, hosting forums and speakers, and field trips to important facilities within the criminal justice field.

In the past, the OJS has performed many community service projects such as Clean and Green on Varick Street, fall and spring clean-up for the elderly, and volunteering at the animal hospital. They have also hosted forums such as one on Bath Salts, and have brought speakers such as Sheriff Rob Maciol to Utica College. Coming up this semester for the OJS are many different trips.

On November 12, the group toured the New York State Police Academy in Albany. This trip was followed closely by a tour of the Oneida County Public Safety Complex. This tour included the 911 Center, Correctional Facility, and the Law Enforcement Building. On November 20, the OJS sponsored a presentation by Steven Barnes. Steven Barnes was convicted in 1989 for the 1985 murder of Kimberly Simon of Marcy, NY. Barnes was exonerated in 2009 by DNA evidence after almost 20 years in State Prison. In the spring, the OJS has many events planned. These include, sponsoring for the second year in a row, the State of the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office address given by Sheriff Robert Maciol, a tour of the New York State Emergency Preparedness Center in Oriskany, participating in the spring clean-up with the Oneida County Office, a trip to the Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia and a trip to Washington D.C. The OJS is an organization that is seemingly growing fast and expanding opportunities for student members. The Cyber Patriots is a cybersecurity club focused on learning new skills outside the classroom. Members of the group learn skills in areas such as, but not limited to, penetration testing, defending systems from attack and operation of Linux. During the Spring ‘14 and Fall ‘14 semesters, the Cyber Patriots participated in a relatively new event, The Central New York Intercollegiate Cyber Security Hackathon. The group spends a great deal of time trying to prepare members to have the skills to compete in this event successfully. This competition, and many others like it, is the main focus for the club. The CNY Intercollegiate Cyber Security Hackathon is hosted once each semester and the Cyber Patriots want members to improve with each event. Members of the club gain skills that go beyond what they learn in class, and in turn this will benefit them as they pursue jobs in the cybersecurity field. Acquiring this kind of experience via the club is experience the members could not get from anywhere else. The advisor for the Cyber Patriots is Dr. Tim Ball and if anyone wishes to join, contact him at thball@utica.edu.

The Organizations of ECJSC
order to prevent cyber-attacks and identify threats while giving refundable tax credit for all costs associated with membership to an ISAC. The tax credit covers personnel participation costs, product and service costs, directly related to sharing information with the ISAC. Membership benefits for businesses include having access to real-time alerts about ongoing cyber threats, newly discovered vulnerabilities to their networks, as well as advice on how to protect against these types of attacks and eliminate the vulnerabilities.

The visit was wrapped up with a short media interview of Gillibrand by local news stations and by a UC student from the college’s media team, senior communication arts major, Karita Rawlins.

Anna Hallstrom, a 2011 graduate of the Economic Crime Management, is pictured with Greg Campbell, Deputy Chief of the US Postal Inspection Service, Western District. Recently, Hallstrom graduated from the U.S. Postal Inspector Academy and is now a full time Postal Inspector.
ACFE Scholarship Recipients

Two Utica College Economic Crime Investigation (ECI) students, senior Jared Platt and junior Robert Broccoli, were recently presented with the impressive 2014-2015 Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship award by The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE). The Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship offered in total $53,000 in scholarships to 30 students across the country.

Jared Platt and Robert Broccoli are only two of 30 scholarship recipients nationwide. In order to be considered for the scholarship, both Platt and Broccoli had to meet the academic requirements that are set by the ACFE.

All of the recipients were chosen based on their application, interests in the field, participation in extracurricular activities, academic transcripts, community service, professional aspirations and three letters of recommendation.

Platt is an economic crime investigation (ECI) major with a concentration in fraud detection and prevention and a minor in economics. Platt was one of the four students to receive one of the top seven awards, which is a $2,500 scholarship. There were several aspects of Platt's overall application that made him stand out to the ACFE. Platt is a volunteer at the Oneida County District Attorney’s Office, and there he assists the White Collar Investigation Unit by preparing local economic crime cases for the Assistant District Attorney. Platt is the Vice President of the Organization of Justice Studies (OJS) Club, a member of the Investment Club, Alpha Phi Sigma’s National Criminal Justice Honor Society and serves as secretary of the UC Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho.

Broccoli is also an ECI major who has been a member of the ACFE since 2013. He is a golf assistant at Yahnundasis Golf Club that has plans to become a Certified Fraud Examiner upon his graduation.

Each of the 30 scholarship recipients also received a one-year ACFE Student Membership. This membership connects students to other ACFE members and gives them access to an online career center to receive advice from several experts in the field, and enables students to search for jobs and post resumes. In addition, all recipients were featured on the website of Fraud Magazine.

ECCI Bi-Annual Board Meeting

On October 28, the Economic Crime and Cybersecurity Institute of Utica College (ECCI) held their bi-annual board of advisors meeting in Washington D.C. This bi-annual meeting is always held in the fall, and is either held in New York City or Washington D.C. due to the clustering of board members in these business hub cities.

On the first day of this event, an Alumni dinner was held at the National Museum of Crime and Punishment. The dinner consisted of those in attendance from the ECCI board, college officials and alumni. This event provided interaction with those currently in the field. This type of event leads to contacts and ties for board members to utilize in the future and UC students, now have access to information on internships and job opportunities.

The formal board meeting had several important agenda items this year. The main focus was discussing and strategizing how best to publicize the newly re-branded ECCI. The board meeting also discussed the directions the ECCI should go, resignations were read, and Thomas Bock was officially made a member of the board. Thomas Bock is the leader of the Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Regulatory Compliance Practice at K2 Intelligence and has over ten years’ experience in the economic crime investigation field. Bock gained his Masters from Utica College in Economic Crime Management.

The next meeting of the ECCI board will be in the spring when the full board will come to Utica College to participate in the bi-annual ECCI student program and hold another board meeting. The student program day is used for mock interviews, a panel discussion, and specifically focused lectures with the board. This gives students ideas, help, constructive criticism, and advice on how to conduct themselves in interviews, and on occasion, land them internships on the spot. Those juniors and seniors interested in this ECCI student program should look for the date to be posted in the ECJSC building in early spring.