On March 30, 2016, The University of Scranton Police Department became one of only six state-accredited Institutions of Higher Ed. Law Enforcement Agencies within Pennsylvania when the PLEAC Commission announced that they unanimously voted to award The University of Scranton Police Department with this honor.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping law enforcement agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance through the creation of standard operating procedures and policies to ensure continual compliance with established state-wide accreditation standards. The University of Scranton Police met and are in compliance with all 134 professional standards and 184 sub-standards by which we were judged.

Law enforcement accreditation is an ongoing process that ensures University Police is in compliance with national ‘best practices’ in policing, covering all aspects of law enforcement, including but not limited to policies, procedures, and operations. Attaining accreditation is truly a great accomplishment for the department, and makes a statement to other law enforcement agencies and our community that The University of Scranton Police Department meets the highest standards of excellence in our profession.

Safety is a shared responsibility, and moving forward, we will continue to ensure The University of Scranton community is one where living, learning and working can flourish. We understand the importance of education, and believe that an environment that sustains a secure police-citizen partnership makes our campus, as well as our local community, a safe and pleasant place to live. We welcome your comments, and look forward to continuing to make our university community a place where people want to call home.
Parade Day 2016: A Success on Many Fronts

Scranton’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade is a day that displays the best the city has to offer, but consequently has traditionally been plagued with the over-consumption of alcohol and other high-risk behaviors. 2016 saw the city host their 55th Annual St. Patrick’s Day Parade, and for University Police, the day was considered a success as evidenced by the reduced number of incidents involving our students. To illustrate: the Communications Center received 37 calls for service this year as compared to 57 in 2014, and 72 in 2013. The reason for the decline can be attributed to a number of initiatives spearheaded by Student Formation & Campus Life, including planning alternate events both on and off campus, educational outreach, and informing students in advance of The University’s expectations. Chief Bergmann also attributes the low incident rates to the increased police presence on and around campus, and that overall, our students are recognizing that being responsible does not forfeit having fun. The hope is that with continued diligence on all fronts, our campus community can continue to enjoy Parade Day, both safely and responsibly!

Special Commendations for Student Officers

On April 18th Cpl. Paul Vervlied and Ryan Burslem, both of the Student Officer Program, entered Martin Hall while performing their regularly scheduled rounds. Shortly after entering the building, the SOs detected a strong odor on the third floor, and immediately contacted the Emergency Communications Center to request that an Officer be dispatched to the scene. After identifying the source of the issue, the decision was made to evacuate Martin Hall due to a dangerous increase of carbon monoxide levels in the building. Their resolve to investigate the odor and notify University Police without hesitation was instrumental in helping prevent a situation that could have had catastrophic consequences. This incident is a shining example of the important services the Student Officer Program provides, not only the University Police Department, but The University community as whole.

USPD Swears in Two Officers

On February 17th Robert Kelly, the Policy and Compliance Manager, and Officer Eric Hernandez were sworn in as University Police Officers by Judge Vito Geroulo of the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas. Kelly came to The University nearly two years ago after retiring from the New Jersey State Police, and as a result of taking the oath of office now holds full powers of arrest within the University’s jurisdictional limits. Kelly was central to USPD attaining Accreditation and is currently working toward meeting IACLEA standards for Accreditation. Hernandez is a local resident of Pocono Summit and also serves as a part-time officer for the Wilkes-Barre Township Police Department. He holds an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice, and is a 2015 graduate of the Lackawanna Police Academy. When Ofc. Hernandez is not in uniform he can be seen working out or playing the drums.
Throughout February, March and April, The University of Scranton hosted weekly Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incident (AS/MCI) exercises in old Loyola Hall. The building, which is slated for demolition later this year, served as the perfect venue to execute this multi-dimensional training. The drills were developed in order to train law enforcement, fire, and EMS providers to rapidly deploy into areas that have been cleared, but not secured, with the aim of safely extracting individuals and initiating treatment to ensure patients are provided appropriate levels of emergency care. This concept, known as the Hartford Consensus, is now a cornerstone of the US Fire Administration’s recommendations and focuses on early hemorrhage control to increase survivability of victims. The recommendations are contained in the acronym THREAT:

- **T** - Threat suppression
- **H** - Hemorrhage control
- **RE** - Rapid Extrication to safety
- **A** - Assessment by medical providers
- **T** - Transport to definitive care

Taking from the above recommendations, our day-long trainings incorporated Law Enforcement, Fire, and EMS agencies from the tri-state area and focused on proactively integrating services in the event of an AS/MCI in order to provide for a more seamless approach should an incident occur. University Police in conjunction with Scranton Police, Fire, and EMS, Lackawanna County SWAT team, Endicott NY Police, Norwich NY Police, Spencer NY Police, and Washington Twp NJ Police, performed building searches, room clearing, door breaching, and victim extradition in small 2-4 officer teams. K9 units were also brought in to do suspect searches and to perform drug, bomb, and cadaver identification throughout the building. All emergency efforts were deployed and executed in a coordinated manner for the purpose of providing a synchronized multi-agency response to an AS/MCI event. Often times it is difficult to organize large-scale drills with all necessary public safety organizations, so we were lucky to support and host such a productive and valuable exercise. The training was very successful, with University Police and Scranton Police receiving a lot of positive feedback regarding the program. I think everyone involved walked away with the knowledge, confidence, and skills to more effectively and collectively respond to AS/MCIs, and hope that we can continue to work together in organizing similar events in the future.

The University of Scranton Police Department is moving forward on a project that will allow us to become a fully mobile police department. In the near future, USPD will be using smart tablets while on patrol to help speed information gathering and processing to better serve the University community and other law enforcement agencies in the area. The benefits of this project will assist with streamlining both administrative and operating functions; and through the use of established technologies, the department will be able to take the necessary steps in becoming a more proactive rather than reactive police agency. These devices will also ensure that officers will have access at a moments notice to any necessary documents and/or information. Administratively, they will allow for immediate information sharing from the scene of an incident to supervisors and give officers the ability to make more informed decisions when reporting to a scene. By taking on this new challenge, the University of Scranton Police Department will be able to provide better service to the University Community resulting in the Division of Student Formation & Campus Life as a whole being able to more effectively assist our students.
Student Officer Success Story: Aaron Shapiro Class of 2016

I joined the Student Officer Program at the beginning of my sophomore year, and upon working my first shift I quickly realized I had much to learn about law enforcement. As I near the end of my studies and tenure with the Student Officer Program, I consider myself lucky to have been given the opportunity to work for such an outstanding department. The Student Officer program as a whole is extremely unique in the sense that the University Police Department opens their doors and allows for students to work in law enforcement, and thus gain first-hand knowledge in our chosen fields prior to graduation. For me, pursuing a career in law enforcement and following in my grandfather’s footsteps was my top priority, but I also knew that my professional potential could be better reached with a college education. Thankfully the Student Officer Program at this institution gave me a chance to do both; and I again count myself lucky to have been afforded an opportunity to supplement the lessons I learned “on the job” with information gained through my academic studies.

Policing is not something that you can simply stumble into and expect to succeed automatically, but rather it requires you to constantly learn from every opportunity you are given. The University of Scranton Police Department and its officers have taught me more than I could have ever imagined, and I will be forever grateful for that. I learned to take pride in what I do, to never settle for mediocrity, and learned that being effective in your job requires one to continually adapt as your environment changes. For that reason, I have made it a point to give back to the program as much as possible. When I took over as the Fire Inspection Supervisor I realized that the system in use was outdated and could be more effective with the use of new technology. Instead of being resistant to change, the department was overwhelmingly onboard with my proposed changes and facilitated the process in every way possible. This has not only streamlined the fire safety system and allowed for a more efficient inspection of buildings, but has also created a more effective way of tracking deficiencies, and in turn significantly decreased the response time for repairing issues. Furthermore holding the rank of Sergeant in the Student Officer Program taught me what it means to be a leader. By virtue of having such a large program, you often find that not everyone gets along and problems often arise; but I learned to overcome and mitigate these issues by striving to find the fairest outcome for everyone involved. I wanted to create an open environment where everyone felt comfortable and respected, an environment where everyone interacted in a mature way, and where everyone walked away feeling like they were an important part of my squad. Without this opportunity I would not be where I am today, and I feel truly honored to have been a part of this program.

It is impossible to know what the future holds for any of us, whether it is after graduation or after freshman year, but what I do know is that the Student Officer program has prepared me for whatever life decides to throw my way. This was so much more than a job for me, and I am grateful that such a program exists. I know that I have much more to learn about law enforcement and life in general, but I can honestly say that that as a direct result of my participation in the program I am a much more confident individual, and look forward to what my future holds. I would like to offer my thanks to everyone within University Police, I will never forget the lessons learned and how much you have helped me. I hope that one day I can return the favor, and give back for all that you have given me.