As of late, the department’s biggest challenge has become staffing. Retaining quality officers and filling vacancies with good candidates has become especially difficult in this job market. Why there seems to be a shortage, or lack of interest, in our profession is a complex question; although the Lackawanna College Police Academy claims their enrollments are still good. We do know that this is a national and regional issue and is compounded when other local police departments are experiencing their own shortages.

We’ve recently lost experienced University Police Officers to the cities of Scranton, Carbondale, and Scott Township; in addition to the Lackawanna County Sheriff’s Department.

I find consolation knowing we contributed to their professional development and local departments recognize any candidates from University Police are a quality hire. We will miss our colleagues and wish them the best. I know the professionalism they demonstrated on-campus will benefit their new communities.

Our hiring process remains highly selective and we are committed to finding candidates well suited to a college environment. The department is working in close collaboration with Human Resources in determining how to attract quality candidates and how our benefits compare with the local municipalities.

The week of May 9th to May 15th is recognized around the country as National Police Week. This tradition of recognizing the service and sacrifice of law enforcement began in 1962, when President John F. Kennedy issued the first proclamation for Peace Officer’s Memorial Day and National Police Week.

I am grateful to work alongside the law enforcement professionals in our department and the local area. We continue to do our utmost to provide the best in service, law enforcement, and crime prevention.
Prepare for Spring Weather

Spring is the season of change and many of us welcome the longer days and warmer temperatures that come with it. However, spring is also the time for unpredictable weather events like thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flooding. Gather the following items in an emergency safety kit to ensure that you are prepared when severe weather strikes.

- A battery-operated flashlight, a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio, and extra batteries for both
- An emergency evacuation or shelter plan, including a map of your home and, for every type of severe weather emergency, routes to safety from each room
- A list of important personal information, including:
  - telephone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends
  - insurance and property information
  - telephone numbers of utility companies
  - medical information
- A properly stocked first aid kit
- A 3–5 day supply of bottled water and nonperishable food
- Personal hygiene items
- Blankets or sleeping bags

Source: https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/springweather/index.html
The University Police Department would like to congratulate the students employed in the Student Officer program and the Parking Services department on their upcoming graduation. Thank you for your dedication to our department over the course of your time with us. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed and you will be missed!

From upper left: Jessica Lagas, Major: Criminal Justice, Future Plans: Attending John Jay College to pursue a masters in criminal justice degree; John Giordano, Major: History, Future Plans: Currently in the hiring process with Capitol Police and Secret Service Uniformed Division; Andrew Huertas, Major: Criminal Justice; Delilah Deffmew, Major: Criminal Justice, Future Plans: Law School; Megan Lynch, Major: Exercise Science, Future Plans: Attending Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health sciences (MCPHS) doctor of physical therapy program

Order of Pro Deo et Universitate

The following University Police staff members will be inducted into the Pro Deo Society on Monday, May 17, 2021

Ten Years of Dedicated Service to the University in 2020
Ofc. Jessica Barletta
Inv. Sergeant Kevin Rude

Ten Years of Dedicated Service to the University in 2021
Amy Driscoll McNulty

Twenty Years of Dedicated Service to the University in 2020
Capt. Thomas Cadugan

Thank you for your years of dedicated service!
The University Police Department looks forward to resuming educational events in the fall semester. As always, we welcome input and ideas on how we can connect, educate, and serve the University of Scranton community to the best of our ability.

Contact the department at 570-941-7888 or universitypolice@scranton.edu. Follow us on social media for up to date departmental happenings.

Kayla Megotz, joining us as the newest Service Officer, aids the department by patrolling campus and its buildings, assisting with lockouts and parking enforcement, providing security at special events, and supporting the safety and security of the campus.

Kai Apel, who comes to us with prior campus police experience, is currently undergoing field training on the overnight shift. Kai is excited to become involved in University Police’s crime prevention and education initiatives when campus resumes regular activities in the fall.

Chris Messina, retired in 2018 with nearly 30 years of telecommunications experience, spent a year and a half working in emergency telecommunications as a dispatcher before joining our team. Chris has also served as a volunteer firefighter in his local community.

Please join us in welcoming these new staff members to the University of Scranton community.