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# DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE, CYBERSECURITY, AND SOCIOLOGY

Criminal Justice

Cybercrime

Homeland Security

Sociology

Criminology



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

*Welcome to the Department of Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, and Sociology!*

We are glad you are considering the University as your academic home for the next few years. We appreciate the chance to share a little about our recent accomplishments.

But first, here are a few things that distinguish us from other types of similar academic institutions and programs:

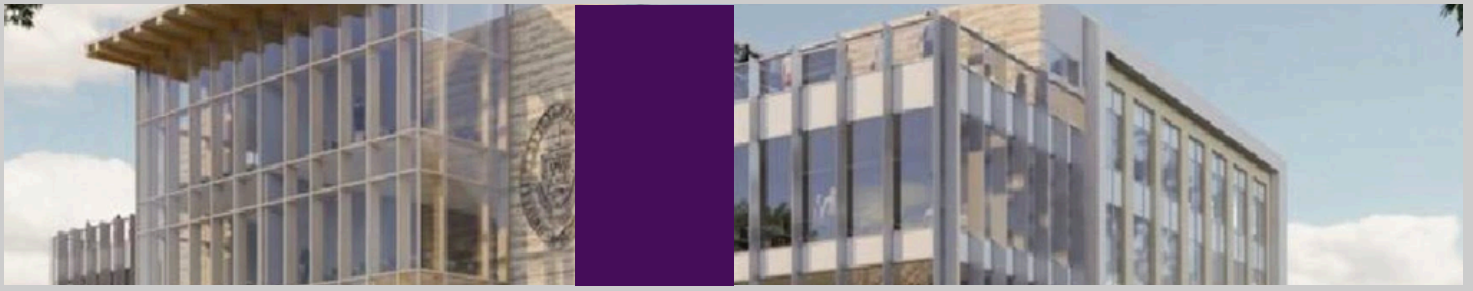
- We have a flexible curriculum that allows students to take advantage of multiple outstanding internship opportunities for credit and encourages them to complete a minor or double major.

- We collaborate with the University's Chemistry Department (Forensic Chemistry major) and Business School (Forensic Accounting track and Business 5yr BS/MS program).
- Our faculty are recognized nationally and internationally in their various professional organizations and also have relevant experience in the field.
- We have an active Criminal Justice Student Club that regularly brings in speakers, coordinates off-campus trips, and engages in community service and we have recently started a chapter—Omega Sigma Alpha—of the American Criminal Justice Association.
- We are one of only nine criminal justice undergraduate programs in the United States to obtain certification from the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS).
- Our Center for the Analysis & Prevention of Crime (CAPoC) combines faculty expertise, practitioner insight, and student learning to enhance the technological and analytical capabilities of students, police officers, and other criminal justice and social service agencies in the regional community.
- We are a Catholic and Jesuit University that is based on a 450 year-old intellectual tradition that strives for excellence and cares for each and every student.
- When you join us this fall, we will be in a newly-constructed building, thanks to the generous grant from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology. This will include additional, world-class classroom and lab spaces for our programs and community initiatives.

If I can be of assistance in any way please feel free to contact me at [michael.jenkins@scranton.edu](mailto:michael.jenkins@scranton.edu).

Yours in Justice,

*Michael Jenkins, Ph.D.*

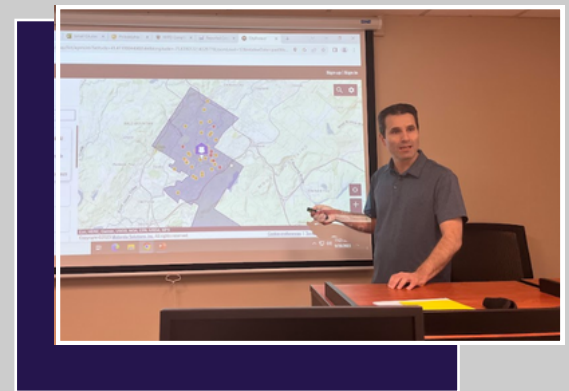


We prepare students for fulfilling careers in policing, courts, corrections, cybercrime prevention and investigation and social service. Our students develop critical thinking, research, analytical and technological skills while learning about equality and social justice. We are just one block from downtown Scranton, which means we have easy access to state and federal courts, law firms, social service agencies, and the police department. We incorporate the principles of Catholic, Jesuit and Ignation Education: especially with genuine care for each student and an emphasis on social justice.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE

A degree in criminal justice at the University of Scranton can prepare you for a career in federal, state and local law enforcement, as well as community and institutional corrections. It can prepare you as well for advanced study in law, criminology and public administration.



*"Our faculty are highly trained, professionally active, and at the top of their fields. All are doing research and taking students under their wing."* - **James Roberts, Ph.D.**



Cybercrime is a serious threat to organizations around the world. Because of that, the cybersecurity industry is rapidly growing everyday. Our program in Cybercrime & Homeland Security is designed to prepare you to meet the growing demand for evaluating and managing and defending from complex cybersecurity incidents and threats, as well as learn about the effect of terrorism on our country.

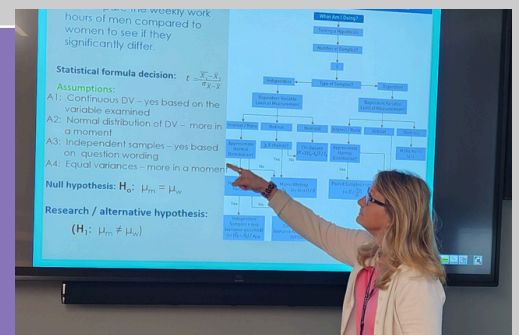
### CYBERCRIME & HOMELAND SECURITY

*"Our programs are not only providing students with a very rich curriculum, but also helping them gain experience and skills that can prepare them to compete with others in the job market."* - **Ismail Onat, Ph.D., M.A.**

### SOCIOLOGY

Sociology majors have a strong background in writing, theory, critical thinking and research. These skills, that come along with the understanding of the nuances of human interaction, are essential to a number of different occupations such as: research, administration, public health, human services, business, counseling, corrections, law, politics and public relations.

*"Most students don't think they're going to be doing a lot of data collecting in their 'real' job. It helps them see the utility of what they're doing. It really drives home to students that what they're doing will be used by a real agency."* - **Loreen Wolfer, Ph.D.**





# DEPARTMENT NEWS

## WELCOME



**DR. MARLON MIKE TORO-ALVAREZ**

- Former Lieutenant Colonel with 23 years of experience. Trained law enforcement from several countries in cybercriminal profiling.

- Earned his Master's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Cybercrime Investigation and Cybersecurity from Boston University.
- He received his Doctorate in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Southern Illinois University.

He presented his research work titled "Cyberhuman Interaction Theory" at the 18th International Congress on Criminology, hosted by Universidad de Ixtlahuaca CUI in Mexico, on September 4, 2025.

He also trained special agents from the National Police of Honduras in cybercriminal profiling, with the sponsorship of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa.



Cambridge University invited Dr. Ismail Onat to its 42<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Financial Crimes, where Dr. Onat presented his research on 'Global Guardians against Financial Crimes and System Vulnerabilities'.

The Scranton Times Tribune interviewed Dr. Onat on recent legal developments around AI generated contents in online platforms: <https://www.thetimes-tribune.com/2025/06/08/state-and-federal-laws-allow-charges-for-ai-child-sexual-abuse-images/>

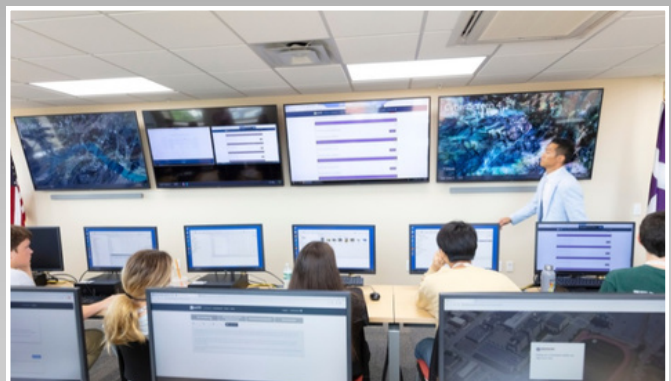


Students from the Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, and Sociology department were invited to attend a pizza party in our new location, where they had the opportunity to meet their classmates and professors in their major. We also had a special visit from Officer Joe Arnold of the Montgomery County Police.



A team of University of Scranton students recently placed first among a field of international competitors in a cybercrime investigation challenge in Europe.

Nine University of Scranton students participated in a study abroad program in Spain, which provided an exploration of the country's criminal justice and security systems and admission into the 2025 White Hat Conference. This year's conference theme — held June 9-11 at the University of León, Spain — was "AI, Cybercrime and Cyber Defense."



The University of Scranton this summer hosted a three-day Cyber-AI Investigation Camp, engaging participants in games, interactive lectures and hands-on exercises that explore and educate on the topic of cybersecurity. The topics of cybersecurity, robotic investigation and artificial AI were discussed.

This is the fifth year in which the University's Department of Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity and Sociology has offered this summer program.



Dr. Sinchul Back attended the Data Forum Justice 2025 conference in León, Spain, which was hosted by the Spanish Ministry of Justice and the University of León. He took a lead role in designing and managing Sub-Challenge No. 11: "Improving Confidence in the Probative Value of Digital Data and Evidence."

He had the opportunity to deliver a keynote lecture on "Challenges in the Detection of Synthetic Evidence Created by AI."

Dr. Back attended the 2nd International Congress of Cybersecurity and Digital Laws (IBDC) in Mexico City. He presented his research, "Deepfake Detection in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: A Practice of Crime Prevention Strategy," and engaged in meaningful discussions on cybersecurity law and AI-related topics.



My name is **Shauna Leahy** and I graduated from the University of Scranton in 2019 with my B.S. in Sociology. I received my M.A. in Sociology from the University of Delaware in 2022 with my thesis "Sandwich Generation Caregiving During the COVID-19 Pandemic".

- Completed comprehensive exams in both Sociology of Health and Disasters & Environmental Sociology.
- She will be receiving her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Delaware.

She defended her dissertation "Climate, Family, and Decision-Making: Through the Lens of People with Companion Animals" in June and has recently walked in her doctoral hooding this May 2025.

She currently work at the Center for Drug and Health Studies in Newark, DE and hopes to continue to work at research institutes after finishing her Ph.D. to further develop her research and data skills.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Julia Ciaccio**  
Cybercrime and Homeland Security

**Julia Ciaccio** and **Dr. Onat** analyzed "ATM and Point-of-Sale Skimming" as an increasing cybercrime problem, and their study was published by the Orion Policy Institute, a think-tank based in Washington, D.C.



**Noah Mumma**  
Criminal Justice

A big congratulations to senior **Noah H. Mumma** for successfully defending his honors thesis, "A Statistical Analysis of Ransomware Attacks and Sociophysical Factors Per State". His research explores how sociophysical factors—such as hospital presence, median household income, and digital access—influence the likelihood of ransomware attacks across the United States.

Special thanks to his research advisor, **Dr. Ismail Onat**, and committee members, **Drs. Roberts and Back**, for their guidance and support.

Also, **Noah** and **Dr. Onat** will be presenting their research on correlates of ransomware across the states at the 80th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology in November in Washington, D.C.



## READY TO EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS? WE OFFER COURSES IN:

- Criminal Justice
- Criminology
- Ethical Hacking
- Sociological theory
- Cyber-intelligence
- Race & Ethnic Relations
- American Policing
- Terrorism
- Homeland Security
- Law and American Court System
- Sociology
- Digital Forensic Investigation
- Emergency Management
- Police Criminalistics

## OUR CLUBS

- Criminal Justice Club (Chapter of American Criminal Justice Association)
- Mock Trial
- Cyber Investigation Club

## ALPHA PHI SIGMA

*The National Criminal Justice Honor Society*

*2024-2025 Inductees*

*James Roberts Ph.D., Advisor*

- |                     |                           |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| • Katie Capooci     | • Jenna LaBarca           |
| • Julia Ciacchio    | • Cathryn Popadin-Lesniak |
| • Anna Gowarty      | • Meghan McDonnell        |
| • Timothy Greff     | • Mya Maus                |
| • Jessica Iaboni    | • Buse Onat               |
| • Madison Kuharchik | • Emilia Tobey            |

## ALPHA KAPPA DELTA

*The International Sociology Honor Society*

*2024-2025 Inductees*

*Loreen Wolfer Ph.D., Advisor*

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Isabelle Kostiak | • Stevie-Gianna Vitale |
|--------------------|------------------------|

## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Pennsylvania State Prison
- Scranton City Police
- U.S. Secret Service and U.S Marshals
- County Probation
- J.P. Morgan
- District Attorney's Office
- Dunmore Police Department
- Lackawanna County Police
- Lackawanna County Sheriff
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- National Security Agency
- Community Intervention Center
- The Institute for Economic and Public Policy
- Cyber & Infrastructure Security Agency

## WHERE ARE OUR ALUMNI?

- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Marshals Service
- FBI
- Counterterrorism
- Private Security Analysis
- U.S. Immigration and Customs
- Local & State Police Departments
- Federal Corrections
- Public Defenders Office
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- Private Sectors for Cybercrime
- Civil Division in Courts



@uofscriminaljustice



@ScrantonSCJ



Congratulations to this years inductees of the Criminal Justice Honor Society, Alpha Phi Sigma, and Sociology Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Delta. pictured Emilia Tobey, Buse Onat, Julia Ciacchio, Stevie Vitale, Dr. Onat, Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Back, and Timothy Greff.



We honored Weiss Hall's benefactors Bob and Marilyn Weiss, celebrating the dedication of the building with a blessing from Fr. Marina. Buse Onat '26, triple major in Criminal Justice, Cybercrime and Homeland Security, Philosophy and Department Chair Dr. Michael Jenkins offered remarks.



