Computing Sciences Colloquia – (Fall 2025 – Spring 2026)

Department of Computing Sciences, University of Scranton

P. M. Jackowitz, Coordinator

Last Modified Friday June 6, 2025

	Fall 2025
Week of	**Friday 3:00 – 4:15 PM**
Aug 25	**Aug 29** – *(LSC 133 reserved)* **Introductory Meeting**
Sept 1	**Sept 5** – *(LSC 133 reserved)*
Sept 8	**Sept 12** - *(LSC 133 reserved)* **Chris Filachek '96 - A Day in the Life of a (Mainframe) Software Developer ?**
Sept 15	**Sept 19** – *(BRN 228 reserved; COMMUNICATION CAREER EVENT LSC 133 taken)*
Sept 22	**Sept 26** - *(LSC 133 reserved)*
Sept 29	**Oct 3** - *(LSC 133 reserved)*
Oct 6	**Oct 10** - *(LSC 133 reserved)* Last day of class before **Fall break**
Oct 13	**Oct 17** – **Fall Break**
Oct 13	**Oct 17** - *(LSC 133 reserved)*
Oct 20	**Oct 24** - *(BRN 228 reserved; OPEN HOUSE I/REHEARSALS LSC 133 taken)* **Dr. Mark Fenner - ?**
Oct 27	**Oct 31** - *(LSC 133 reserved)*
Nov 3	**Nov 7**- *(BRN 228 reserved; OPEN HOUSE II/REHEARSALS LSC 133 taken)*
Nov 10	**Nov 14**- *(LSC 133 reserved)*

Nov 17	**Nov 21-** *(LSC 133 reserved)*
Nov 24	*Thanksgiving break*
Dec 1	**Dec 5-** *(LSC 133 reserved)* Student Internships, etc. Panel
Dec 8	Final Exams

Sep-12-2025	**A Day in the Life of a (Mainframe) Software Developer ?**
	Chris Filachek, '96
	ABSTRACT: IBM Z, more commonly known as "the mainframe", continues to be a critical part of the world's computing infrastructure that makes modern life possible, powering banking, retail, travel, and other industries. Often thought of as being completely different than other platforms, today's mainframe has evolved to take advantage of many popular technologies. Today's mainframe fits in standard data center racks, connects to other systems using standard protocols, and runs many of today's modern languages. Let's take a look at what it's like to be a software developer on the mainframe. While the mainframe is different when it matters, you might find there's more similarities to other platforms that you might expect.
	BIOGRAPHY: Shortly before starting college in 1992, technology pundits predicted that the last mainframe would be turned off in 1996, which is the same year Chris graduated from the University of Scranton. As a result, Chris never imagined working for IBM or on the mainframe. However, through a series of chance meetings and a constant stream of challenging and interesting work, his first and only job after college was (and still is) working on z/TPF, IBM's high-volume, real-time transaction processing operating system and middleware for the mainframe. Mainframes are here for the long haul and so is Chris, who is currently a senior database and storage architect for z/TPF and is responsible for storage (disk), file systems, database managers, and other areas across z/TPF.
