

# THE DISPATCH

The University of Scranton Police Department



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

by Chief Donald Bergmann



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.

# FAIR AND IMPARTIAL POLICING

UPD Supervisors Attend Training Aimed at Addressing Bias in Policing

Inv. Sergeant Kevin Rude



Center left and right: Inv. Sergeant Kevin Rude and Sergeant Joseph Laguzzi attend supervisor training with local law enforcement professionals.

**"The University of Scranton Police Department hopes that continued training for law enforcement officers can lay a strong foundation for improved relationships between officers and community members and celebrate the increasing diversity in our community." - Inv. Sgt. Rude**

Photo Source: Scranton Times Tribune

On April 14 and April 22, 2021, members of the command/supervisory staff for the University of Scranton Police Department joined other local agencies for training aimed at addressing bias in policing. The training, conducted by Fair and Impartial Policing, LLC, was offered through a grant secured by the City of Scranton Police Department and provided eight hours of classroom training for first line supervisors and command staff in law enforcement. The content of the course focused on recognizing and understanding

bias, whether implicit or explicit, and working toward eliminating the influence of bias in decision making and actions of law enforcement officers. University of Scranton police officers regularly attend training, both in person and virtually, with bias-based policing and understanding cultural diversity within the community being a constant focus.

Skills that are developed during such training sessions are, among others, understanding the many types of

bias (racial, gender, religious, sexual orientation, socio-economic, etc.), learning and utilizing verbal de-escalation, and improving the communication skills of each officer.

The University of Scranton Police Department hopes that continued training for law enforcement officers can lay a strong foundation for improved relationships between officers and community members and celebrate the increasing diversity in our community.

## 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>



# Spotlight: Congratulations to our Seniors!



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!

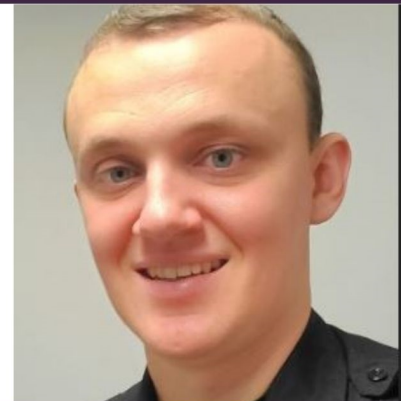


# WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Service Officer  
*Kayla Megotz*

Police Officer  
*Kai Apel*



Dispatcher  
*Christopher Messina*

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.**

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](mailto:universitypolice@scranton.edu).  
Follow us on social media for up to date departmental happenings.



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