UC PEOPLE
Joe Giordano, Professor of Practice of Cybersecurity

By Jessica Bates, ‘20 PR Intern

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.
A: I’m a local guy. I graduated from Proctor High School in 1975 and from Utica College in 1981 with my degree in computer science. My wife and I have three children, two of whom are also Utica College graduates. I worked at the Air Force Research Lab in Rome from 1981 to 2007 as a computer scientist. I started at Utica College full time in 2008. I’m a professor of practice and director of the undergraduate and graduate cybersecurity programs. While the Air Force Research Lab was amazing, the highlight of my career has been working here at UC. Being a professor is challenging, but it’s incredibly rewarding to know that I’m affecting the next generation. As a professor, I’ve had opportunities to help students become successful, work through problems, and offer career counseling. I feel very fortunate to teach something that can offer diverse students of all levels the opportunity to choose from numerous career paths. There is nothing better than receiving an email or phone call from a graduate saying “Thank you for helping to lead me in the right direction.” In my free time, I like to work out and go on bike rides with my wife. I thoroughly enjoy reading all types of books, including historical pieces, literature, poetry, biographies, and much more.

Q: Why do you think today’s students are better prepared for technology?
A: They grew up with it. First, look at somebody my age. I didn’t touch a computer until my junior year of college when I was about 22 or 23.

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“[The NSA and DHS certifications are] proof that the program is teaching relevant material and is up to date, timely, and meets their criteria for excellence.”

- Joe Giordano
Welcome
Abdulbast Abushgra, Assistant Professor of Cybersecurity, School of Business and Justice Studies
Suneed Ahmed, Athletic Assistant - Cross Country/Track and Field, Office of Athletics
Wilfredo Alvarez, Associate Professor of Communication Arts, School of Arts and Sciences
Elizabeth Crane, Executive Assistant to the President, Office of the President
Julian Damashek, Assistant Professor of Biology, School of Arts and Sciences
Cooper Deck, Athletic Assistant - Sports Information, Office of Athletics
Chasity Eckert, Coordinator of Enrollment Management, Enrollment Operations
Jonathan Gaffney, Assistant Professor of Physics, School of Arts and Sciences
Maryam Hashemian, Assistant Professor of Biology, School of Arts and Sciences
Jing-Mao Ho, Two-Year Assistant Professor of Data Science, School of Arts and Sciences
Caroline Kopp, Athletic Assistant - Women's Soccer, Office of Athletics
John Lawless, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, School of Arts and Sciences
Meredith Madden, Assistant Professor of Education, School of Health Professions and Education
Nichole Masters, Administrative Assistant III, Office of Advancement
Ryan Miller, Assistant Professor of Physics, School of Arts and Sciences
Kelly Minerva, Assistant Professor of English, School of Arts and Sciences
Jae Sung Park, Assistant Professor of Therapeutic Recreation, School of Health Professions and Education
Justin Patterson, Athletic Assistant – Men’s Lacrosse, Office of Athletics
Nile Patterson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, School of Arts and Sciences
Carlota Perez-Belcher, Two-Year Assistant Professor of Spanish, School of Arts and Sciences
Shannon Schoellig, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, School of Health Professions and Education
Dean Schrider, Athletic Assistant - Swimming and Diving, Office of Athletics
Sabrina Stransky, Athletic Assistant - Softball, Office of Athletics
Justine Weber, One-Year Assistant Professor of Biology, School of Arts and Sciences

SAVE THE DATE!
Shaun R. Harper, founder and executive director of the University of Southern California Race and Equity Center, will visit campus and speak at a campus community Town Hall event on Thursday, Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Clark Athletic Center Gymnasium.

In addition to founding the USC Race and Equity Center, Harper is the Clifford and Betty Allen Chair in Urban Leadership, provost professor for Rossier School of Education and the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California, president-elect of the American Educational Research Association, and a past president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education.

Dr. Harper’s research focuses primarily on race, gender, and other dimensions of equity in an array of organizational contexts, including K-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporations. He was appointed to President Barack Obama's My Brother’s Keeper advisory council in 2015, and recognized in Education Week as one of the 10 most influential professors in the field of education in 2017.

Stay tuned for more information about small group meetings throughout Dr. Harper’s visit at UC.

CONGRATULATIONS!
The Kudos Card program monthly drawing winner is...
Lauryn Moore
Congratulations, Lauryn, and enjoy your prize!

You can access the link below at any time to recognize a colleague for his/her great work:
utica.edu/kudos
Hossein Behforooz, professor of mathematics, presented a talk at the Bridges 2019 Conference held at the Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria.

• Behforooz also presented a Practical Workshop on Magic Squares at the MOVES 2019 Math Conference held at the International Museum of Math in New York City.

Dave Dellecese, director of content strategy, was asked to return to his role of reporter-turned-P.I. Wam Dixon for an upcoming episode of “The Brass Lantern,” a podcast from NY Times best-selling author, A.G. Devitt.

Joe Giordano, professor of practice of cybersecurity and director of cybersecurity programs, was recognized by ForensicsColleges.com as one of three “Cybercrime Experts Leading the Charge.”


Curtis Pulliam, professor of chemistry, Michelle Boucher, professor of chemistry, and Alyssa Thomas, associate professor of chemistry, wrote a chapter about the UC Chem Club, “Building and Maintaining Award-Winning ACS Student Member Chapters” for the 3rd volume of the ACS Symposium Series. Our apologies to Dr. Pulliam for missing your name in the previous Source.

Juan Thomas, associate professor of Spanish, recently published three articles: “La especialización de funciones en el repertorio lingüístico del español de Utica, Nueva York (The specialization of functions in the linguistic repertory of Spanish from Utica, New York),” “Imágenes borradas y letras cambiadas: el español en el paisaje lingüístico de Utica, NY (Erased images and changed letters: Spanish in the linguistic landscape of Utica, New York)” and “Language contact phenomena in three Aljamiado texts: Religion as a sociolinguistic factor.”

The first two articles cover Utica’s Spanish-speaking community and the third article discusses the ways that the Arabic and Spanish languages helped Moriscos to continue to practice Islam during the Spanish Inquisition.

• Thomas also presented “Contact-induced pluricentricity? The role of Anglicisms in forging a new variety of Spanish” at the Languages, Nations and Cultures conference in Stockholm, Sweden.

Please send information and photos for KUDOS to source@utica.edu.
• The Observer-Dispatch covered a story about Utica College being recognized as a nationwide College of Distinction. 7/2

• Luke Perry, professor of government and politics and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, was a guest on WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM to discuss the recent Supreme Court ruling on gerrymandering and what it means for the politics of legislative districts. 7/5

• The Observer-Dispatch wrote an opinion piece for the “Good” section of “OUR VIEW: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” about Utica College being recognized as a nationwide College of Distinction. 7/6

• Brett Orzechowski, assistant professor of management and media, was quoted by Observer-Dispatch reporter Amy Neff Roth in her article titled “What’s next for Marcy Nano? State optimistic despite skepticism.” 7/7

• Luke Perry, professor of government and politics and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, spoke with Bill Keeler on WIBX Radio’s First News with Keeler in the Morning about his newest book and NY-22. 7/10

• Dave Roberts, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for Thrive Global, “After Loss: Love Has the Grace to Save Us.” 7/15

• Anthony Martino, director of the Northeast Cyber Forensics Crime Lab at Utica College, was a guest on WUTQ Talk of the Town 100.7 FM to discuss the troubling trend of social media’s use for attention in crimes. 7/17

• The Observer-Dispatch covered a story about Utica College’s football team hosting the annual high school team camp. 7/17

• WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Jenn Seelig spoke with Anthony Martino, director of the Northeast Cyber Forensics Crime Lab at Utica College, about the role social media may have played in the death of Bianca Devins. 7/17

• The Observer-Dispatch wrote an article about Bernie Hyman, professor of practice of fraud and financial crime investigation, being awarded the Certified Fraud Examiner credential by The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. 7/23

• WUTR Eyewitness News reporter Jenn Seelig spoke with Pamela Matt, executive director of YSLPP, Eva Mroczek, YSLPP Graduate Leader Development Program Coordinator, and two Young Scholars students about the Young Scholars STEAM Presentations. 7/26

• Luke Perry, professor of government and politics and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, wrote an opinion piece for the Observer-Dispatch titled “Competition, Tension Shape Early NY-22 Campaign.” 7/28

• President Laura Casamento and Jeff Gates, senior vice president for student life and enrollment management, spoke with Inside Higher Ed reporter Rick Seltzer about the tuition reset, college affordability and cost transparency for a special report. 7/30

• WKTV News Channel 2, Rome Sentinel, and the Observer-Dispatch ran stories about Utica College receiving a grant to improve campus safety. 7/30

• Observer-Dispatch and Clinton Record ran a story about Luke Perry, government and politics professor and director of UC’s Center for Public Affairs and Election Research, publishing a book titled “Donald Trump and the 2018 Midterm Battle for Central New York.”

• Dave Roberts, adjunct professor of psychology, wrote an article for Open to Hope, “After Loss: Fear Can Be an Asset to Grieving Individuals.” 7/31

• Rome Sentinel wrote an article about Kate Cominsky, adjunct lecturer of education, publishing a book titled “Breakfast Memories: A Dementia Love Story.” 7/31
Now, at 3 years old, my granddaughter takes a smartphone and knows exactly which buttons to hit to skip ads on YouTube so she can watch her little cartoons. Those born in recent decades are growing up with this. For instance, think of cell phones. Children and young adults always have them in their hands - this super powerful computer system, much more powerful than what I used back in 1980 and 1981 when I was a student at UC. The young people have grown up with this and are used to a laptop, a smartphone, a tablet. Whatever it is, they’re used to it, it is part of their lives.

Q: How is cybersecurity the new international battlefield?

A: I think there will always be physical warfare, but cyber is emerging as a new battlefield. I call it cyber conflict. Cyber criminals are those who create scams, fraud, spam, and anything to try to make a buck. Then you also have cyberterrorism. If a hacker group can attack a nation’s power grid or financial infrastructure, they can do a lot of damage and cause a lot of chaos. Our military is very dependent on cyber technologies for decision making, for the movement of troops, for materiel. If a hacker could get into these systems that affect decision making, they can cause a lot of havoc and chaos. There are so many ways to do it because the information infrastructure is so complicated; the more complicated, the more the advantage goes to the attacker.

Q: What kinds of damage can occur?

A: A sophisticated attack can take down a power grid. Russia has done it in Ukraine, thus Russians have proved that this is doable. What they did is like a science experiment on a grand level. When you look at other infrastructures, whether it is electric power, oil and gas, water infrastructure, air traffic control, or transportation, all of these national critical infrastructure sectors are becoming mostly controlled by computer hardware, computer software, networks, wireless technologies, and special purpose computing devices. Thus, there are a lot of entry points for a hacker. This could affect the water supply; power grids could be taken down and the air traffic control system could be shut off. This isn’t to say that the sky is falling and everyone should be afraid, but because we’re moving to everything being computer controlled, you have smart cities, smart traffic management system, and everything is controlled by cyber technologies. Think of a busy city or busy metropolitan area. If a hacker could get in and begin to control traffic lights or shut things down, this would be disastrous. Those are the things that can occur from the standpoint of damage. However, the big issue is the financial infrastructure. People have confidence in the integrity of the financial infrastructure. If things begin to go down and money is stolen, people will lose that confidence. This will have cascading effects, not only on the national economy, but on the international economic system as well. When the internet was developed by the defense department, I don’t think people were able to predict that it would be embedded into every aspect of the daily life of Americans, citizens, businesses, industries and military in the future.

Q: What do you see for the future of cybersecurity?

A: I see a rise in conflict in cyberspace. The more things become computer controlled and the more things go to the internet of things, you’re going to see adversaries probing and poking and just seeing what they can do. We’ve also got the increased emphasis on artificial intelligence. The applications are broad ranging. There are medical applications, financial applications, industrial manufacturing applications and military applications. We’re now in a global competition to see who is going to become the world leader in artificial intelligence. Basically, new technology is rolling out, new challenges, thus requiring us to keep students at a level of readiness. This is a tough field to be in as a career, especially to teach as a professor, because it changes so quickly. Some disciplines, while fantastic, don’t change. This is a field where you might teach a course for a couple of years and then have to totally revamp that course because the threat has changed and/or the technology has changed. I can’t even go semester to semester without looking at my course. It’s a challenge not only to teach the program, but to direct the program. Also, for new teachers in the program, it’s a tremendous challenge. Luckily, we have some tremendous people here to teach and handle the challenges.

Q: How important are the certifications we recently received?

A: They’re the gold standard. Those certifications for both the bachelors and master’s degrees are what let a student or prospective student know that we are meeting the stringent requirements set forth by the by the U.S. government, meaning the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security. It’s proof that the program is teaching relevant material and is up to date, timely, and meets their criteria for excellence. In business and industry, graduating from an NSA Designated Center of Excellence is a noted credential. We provide students that graduate from the program with a certificate saying that they graduated from a Center of Academic Excellence.
UPCOMING EVENTS/TRAINING

Please visit utica.edu/hr/training for updates and to register.
For Health and Wellness events, visit utica.edu/hr/wellness

August
08/29-09/01/19 New Student Orientation
08/30/19 Convocation 11:00 a.m.; Clark Athletic Center

September
09/04/19 Walk a Mile for Unity 1:00 p.m.; Duffy Plaza
09/19/19 Individual TIAA meetings By appointment; Bull Family Board Room, Bell Hall’s

Check out HR’s new page for training and development: utica.edu/hr/trainingopp.cfm

AROUND CAMPUS

A-C Young Scholars students from Proctor High School add to their skill set and learn valuable information from Utica College professors of computer science, biology, physics and chemistry through the sixth annual three-week STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) program. 7/26

D-E Students present their research on a specific topic of their choosing at the STEAM program poster presentation. 7/26

UC HEALTH & WELLNESS

Look for Flu Shot information to come in September!
Visit utica.edu/hr/wellness/ for more information and to register.