Congratulations to our most recent graduates, and welcome to the Association!

Subject: Grad Connect – News from Utica College
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Grad Connect
Utica College's Graduate Student e-Newsletter

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Utica College National Alumni Council

The National Alumni Council (NAC) is the governance body of the Alumni Association. We are dedicated to supporting Utica College and our fellow alumni. We represent the College and the Alumni Association at events, meetings in our communities, and with local alumni. Our responsibilities also include maintaining, encouraging, and building relationships between alumni and Utica College.

All alumni are automatically members of the Alumni Association. You can become an active member of the association by attending and participating in College sponsored events, hosting regional alumni events, recruiting prospective students, and/or mentoring students. There are numerous ways to become engaged. The association provides a forum for alumni to interact with old friends, and voice their opinions about the College.

I encourage you to remain engaged with the development and growth of the College. Visiting the Alumni Relations' website will allow you to learn about news and information regarding UC. Participating in alumni events such as Homecoming Weekend will help you reconnect with your alma mater and fellow alumni. Offering your time and experience to be a guest speaker in a class, whether you're discussing your job/internship experience or giving advice to students, would also help strengthen the alumni connection with students. You may also make a financial contribution to the annual fund, which raises funds in support of the College.

Important Dates
Please note the upcoming deadlines:

June 15 - Apply for Degree for August Graduation

June 15 - Date that a Thesis needs to be submitted to Thesis Chair/Committee

June 25 - Summer D2 Session begins

June 27 - Last day to add/drop classes for D2 Session

July 1 - Capstone Project to Chair/Committee

July 20 - Last day to withdraw from a summer full term course.

Trax Connect
College's most urgent priorities by making a difference in the lives of our students and in the quality of their educational experience.

I encourage all of you to become reacquainted and stay connected with your alma mater as well as other alumni. Don't forget to like the UC Facebook page, join our Linkedin group, or explore UC's online alumni community, PioneerStation, to further connect with fellow alumni and stay up-to-date with all the events happening at the College. There is strength in numbers, and the more alumni that participate in our College the stronger UC will become.

Remain Pioneer Proud,
Rob Sherman '74
NAC President

Student Spotlight - Kevin Stilwell, Cybersecurity

Graduating with Utica College's first class of students receiving a Master of Science degree in Cybersecurity, Kevin Stilwell holds the honor of being the first student in his program to submit his approved Capstone Project titled Developing a Suspicious File Triage Tool. Kevin's research discussed the creation of a software tool "meant to complement the other software tools used for malware analysis that exist and to free the malware analyst for tasks that require creativity and expertise." The tool will be utilized by his place of employment, and ultimately, Kevin's advanced degree will help further his career within the company. Of course the best part of the experience was "the satisfaction of producing an academic paper [and] getting it finished."

Describing his Capstone Project experience, Kevin emphasized the high expectations set by his professor that the students would be "working pretty hard and [would be] busy all the way through" the capstone process. Professor Nichols pushed the students to produce quality work worthy of a graduate degree, believing they were capable of writing strong academic papers despite the fact that academic writing may differ from writing within a professional field. Concerned at times about meeting the high standards and having a constant fear of failing, in the end Kevin praises his professor for instilling in him the skills and desire to create an exceptional Capstone Project.

Trax Connect is a secure, online social networking site recently created for graduate students at Utica College! New and returning as well as campus-based and distance graduate students are invited to log in (with your UC user ID and password) and create a profile.

Did you Know?

Life getting in the way? Need to take a semester off from graduate school? Request an approved Leave of Absence! If you need to take a leave due to a medical condition you will need to fill out a Medical Leave of Absence. Time accumulated during a Leave of Absence does not count toward the six-year time limit for completion of a graduate degree.

Fun Facts

The 7 foot tall UC mascot known as Trax the Moose turns 10 years old this year. Trax was introduced at the November 2002 Homecoming weekend. He got his name after an 8 week long contest encouraging members of the UC community to submit their suggestions. Trax the Moose replaced the former mascot, a Pioneer.
When asked what advice he’d give students coming into the program, Kevin reflected, “Start as early as you can. One of my earlier professors allowed me to write a paper for a class assignment that would also serve as my problem statement.” He went on to stress the importance of “[seeking] out additional resources” and taking initiatives outside of a given course, mentioning conversations he had with his second reader and spending time writing during his second residency. Students who start early also give themselves some "buffer time" in case they need to take a break for a day or two or want to avoid "scrambling at the last minute."

Overall Kevin is pleased regarding his experiences with the Capstone Project, in the Cybersecurity program, and at Utica College. When asked what he was going to do with all of his free time, Kevin laughed: "Play video games, spend time with my wife, and go on vacation!" If anyone is interested in reading Kevin's capstone paper, it can be viewed on Utica College's Library website: www.utica.edu/library. (Click on Find books tab and search by author or title.)