

FEBRUARY 2024

ISSUE 3

# I-HACK HIGHLIGHTS

News and Updates from I-HACK, the Hatchery,  
and the Makerspace at Gannon University



FEATURE

## ONLINE ROMANCE AND DATING SCAMS

Roses are red, violets are blue, and we all know that not everything - or everyone - online is true. Can you tell the difference between someone using a decade old photo and a scammer trying to swoon their way to every dollar in your bank account?

### WHAT IS A ROMANCE SCAM?

A bad actor creates a fake online profile, hits the open web, and stirs up romantic feelings in victims. After some not-so-innocent flirtations, they ask for money.

### RED FLAGS

The person may request money for urgent matters such as medical expenses or a plane ticket. Scammers will often request hard-to-track forms of payment like wire transfers or gift cards. The person may claim to live far away from you, rush the relationship to make it seem like it is moving fast, or break promises to see you in person.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### DR. FONG MAK

Meet Dr. Fong Mak, a Professor for Electrical and Cyber Engineering at Gannon University.

Dr. Mak received his Bachelor's, Master's and PhD in Electrical Engineering and joined Gannon University in 1990.

Some of Dr. Mak's notable achievements include founding MAKTEAM Software and creating EvalTools®, a comprehensive online assessment tool that covers learning management, outcomes assessment, continuous improvement management, survey and institutional-wide self study.

Dr. Mak has also worked with K12 schools to create AdamTools® for school districts to manage their student information from admissions to graduation to special education.



# FEATURE CONT.

## IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S THEM

If you think you or a loved one is being scammed, let them know what to do:

- Stop communicating immediately
- Note any identifiable information you may have
- Contact your bank or credit card company
- File a report with your local police department
- Alert the website/app where you met the scammer

## GIVE SCAMMERS THE SLIP

Think before posting about yourself and others online, consider setting your social media profiles to "private", be wary of communications that push for immediate action or ask for personal info, and reverse image search of the account's profile picture.

**Americans reported losing \$1.3 billion to romance scams from 2017 to 2021 according to the Federal Trade Commission. Don't be afraid to reach out to family and friends if you suspect your online fling might be heading toward scummier territory.**



# CYBERPATRIOT

## SEMIFINALIST TEAMS

- Centennial High School
- Cheltenham High School
- Kenai Peninsula
- South Forsyth High School

**NATIONAL FINALS: March 15-19, 2024**

## CYBERCAMPS 2024

Gannon University and CyberPatriot will host a standard and advanced level academic camp for high school students interested in entering the cyber field.

**STANDARD: JUNE 10th - 14th 2024**

**ADVANCED: JULY 15th - 19th 2024**

**STAY TUNED FOR REGISTRATION INFO**

## CELEBRATE ENGINEERS WEEK!

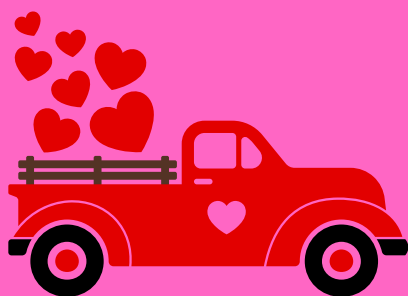
This year's theme "Welcome to the Future" is about celebrating today's achievements and paving the way for a brighter and more diverse future in engineering.

Engineering is at the forefront of innovation and is instrumental in designing and creating the solutions that are shaping the world of tomorrow.

Join us on **Friday February 23rd from 5:30-7:30pm** for an event full of activities, snacks, and friends!

**Register at: <https://forms.office.com/r/hZ3DbQAPUS>**

# EVENTS



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