

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 2

# CYBER NOTES

News and Updates from Cybersecurity and  
Cyber Engineering at Gannon University



FEATURE

## THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF SAFE ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

With holiday shopping in full swing, you should know how to safe online while buying gifts for everyone on your list. Every dollar is even more important so here are some tips to help you protect your hard-earned cash from the scammers and hackers that pop up every year!

### **DO: KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR BANK STATEMENTS**

Pay close attention to your financial records like bank statements and credit card transactions to prevent against identity theft and fraud.

### **DON'T: SHOP ON PUBLIC WI-FI**

Public wi-fi is not very secure so you shouldn't ever online shop or access important accounts (like banking) while connected to public wi-fi.

### **DO: KNOW HOW MUCH ITEMS SHOULD COST**

Have a general sense of how much the items you want to buy should cost. You can get a sense if an online store has prices that are "too good to be true" preventing counterfeit items or no item at all.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### TOM ALBERT

Tom is a senior Cybersecurity student at Gannon University who decided to go back to school after he started his career.

During his previous jobs, Tom has worked with generic computer work and his employers relied heavily on his knowledge for many of their cybersecurity needs.

After discovering Gannon University's Cybersecurity program, Tom decided pursue a college degree.

Tom's advice to students wanting to do Cybersecurity is to "Work hard. In cybersecurity, learning is in the doing so don't be afraid to get your hands dirty because that's where the jobs are!"



# FEATURE CONT.

## DON'T: BUY FROM GRINCH BOTS

"Grinch Bots" are automated programs that quickly buy up popular toys, sneakers, or other items and resell them for a huge mark-up. The best way to defang Grinch Bots is to refuse to buy from them.

## DO: MAKE A CYBERSECURITY CHECKLIST

The Core 4 behaviors of cybersecurity are creating complex passwords, using Multifactor Authentication, turning on automatic software updates, and learning how to identify fishing attempts.

## DON'T: SHARE MORE THAN IS COMFORTABLE

You should always be wary of any retailer that is requesting more information than you feel comfortable sharing.

These are some great tips for shopping safe online for the holidays, but these are also sensible habits to follow no matter what month it is. Follow these money saving tips to determine what is cheerful and what is coal-worthy shopping online this holiday season.

## WOMEN IN CYBER, ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

Connect with women in cyber, engineering and computing at this networking and empowerment event.

Hear what it's like earning a degree and pursuing a career in these high-demand industries by talking with faculty and current students from Gannon University.

**DATE: Tuesday, December 5**

**TIME: 8 PM / EST**

**WHERE: Virtual**

# CYBERPATRIOT



## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

CyberPatriot was created to inspire K-12 students toward careers in cybersecurity or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future.

**STATE ROUND: December 7-11, 2023**

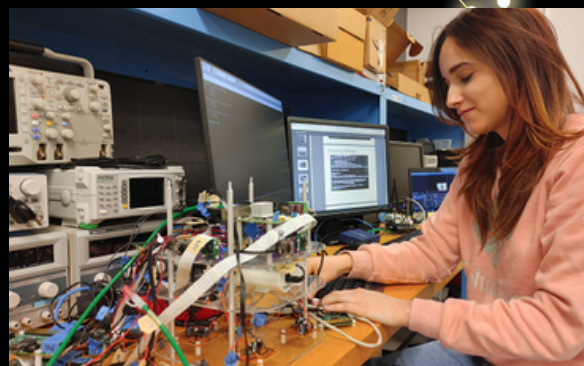
**SEMIFINALS: January 18-20, 2024**

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

## SPONSORED TEAMS SCORES

- Centennial HS: **7th** place in TX
- Cheltenham HS: **25th** place in PA
- Copley HS: **1st** place in OH
- ECTS: **29th** place in PA
- Kenai Peninsula: **1st** place in AK
- McDowell High School: **1st** place in PA
- South Forsyth HS: **1st** place in GA

## EVENTS



Register today at:

[s.visitdays.com/gannon/evr/2789074](https://s.visitdays.com/gannon/evr/2789074)



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