

# LOYOLA BLAKEFIELD CYBER SECURITY

## WINTER 2024 NEWSLETTER



### Foreword

After many months of work, our dons' efforts are paying off. LBC2 is right around the corner, a Loyola team is competing in CyberPatriot National Finals, and we have an Estonian visitor! We're excited to share what LBCSI has been up to this winter and are ready to finish the year off strong!

## LBC2

On March 23, 2024, LBCSI will be hosting the Loyola Blakefield Cyber Challenge (LBC2), featuring our own CTF (capture the flag) style cyber challenges and our all-new international summit. LBC2 will run from 8:30 AM to 3 PM at Loyola's campus and is open to anyone from grades 8-12 with no prior experience required. For students new to the field, we offer a beginner division along with a veteran division for more experienced competitors. If you are interested, please visit [lbc2.org](http://lbc2.org) to register!

### Guest Speakers & Parent Track

To kick off LBC2, we are excited to announce that Heath Adams, CEO of TCM Security, will be giving a talk to competitors on the importance of learning cybersecurity and his perspective on the field! TCM Security provides penetration testing, cybersecurity education, and compliance services to hundreds of companies. They have generously offered to provide vouchers to their cyber education resources as prizes for LBC2! We hope that this partnership will encourage competitors to continue learning and pursue a cybersecurity career after the competition ends.

### Schedule

The event kicks off at 8:30 with registration and a complimentary breakfast courtesy of our sponsors, followed at 9:10 by a talk from Heath Adams, TCM Security CEO. Then, the Comtech round begins, where competitors are tasked with configuring and securing Windows and Linux Based operating systems. At 11:30, the Comtech round will end for a lunch break until 12:25. Then CTF round commences, where competitors work together to solve cybersecurity puzzles based on cryptography,

reverse engineering, web exploitation, and more. To end, points will be totalled and winners for each division will be announced!

### **Prizes**

This year, we are pleased to announce that, in addition to our usual cash prizes, TCM Security has partnered with us to offer training vouchers for their training academy! The academy contains in-depth courses on Linux, Python, ethical hacking, and much more!

First place: \$400 USD and four 6-Month TCM Academy vouchers (worth \$620)

Second place: \$200 USD and four 3-Month TCM Academy vouchers (worth \$320)

Third place: \$100 USD and four 1-Month TCM Academy vouchers (worth \$120)

The deadline to register is March 22nd, 2024, but be sure to sign up as soon as possible at [lbc2.org](http://lbc2.org)!



## Air Force Association's CyberPatriot

On January 19th and 20th, our dons competed in the 4th round of the AFA's CyberPatriot competition! Featuring a new CTF-Style Web challenge, a Boeing Systems themed challenge, and the most difficult tasks of the season so far, Round 4 is the final round before the National Finals Round in March. Although nearly 3,000 teams competed in CyberPatriot this year, only the top 12 advanced to the final round. We are excited to announce that, for the first time in 3 years, Loyola Blakefield team Charlie's Angels, consisting of Nate Konkel '24, Michael Litrenta '24, Aidan Sachs '24, Casey Nazalrod '25, Jack Wachter '24, and Teddy Marine '24 (left to right) has qualified for the National Finals Round!



## Senior Teams

As their time at Loyola Cyber comes to an end, we would like to congratulate our 3 other senior teams!

Team Ultraviolet, winning the 2nd place State Award and placing 22nd in Round 4, with James Keller, Henry Craig, Connor Lockett, Ben Frederick, Kieran Ellis and Jack Anderson.

Team On The Line, with Will Pipkin, Matthew Johnson, John Villanueva, Andrew Alonsozana, and Colt Simpson.

Team LL Cool J, featuring Colin McCardell, Liam Lucas, Daniel Sessa, Matthew Rederick, Cole Crosse, and Evan Maddox.

## Estonian Exchange

During LBCSI's visit to Estonia, our international team connected with Estonian Student Andreas Kase. Andreas is a cybersecurity enthusiast and researcher who has competed and volunteered in the Cyber Battle of the Nordic-Baltics. Additionally, he is an athlete who specializes in sprints. He currently holds the Estonian U18 60m, 100m and 200m records. He speaks Estonian and English fluently in addition to some Russian, German, and Latin.

Andreas will take his first trip to the United States from March 15th to March 31st, following senior Jack Wachter's schedule and participating in LBC2 on March 23rd. He has helped develop several challenges for the event with an international twist. We are looking forward to hosting Andreas on campus and building international relations within LBCSI.



## Guest Speakers

During this winter, LBCSI was happy to welcome three guest speakers: 1st Lieutenant Patrick Lagator '15, Debra Mirabile (parent of '25), and James McManus '06.

Patrick Lagator '15, 1st Lieutenant in the Air Force and alum of LBCSI, competed in the Air Force Association's CyberPatriot during his time at Loyola, winning first in the state. On January 23, Patrick Lagator came to Loyola to speak about his career in the Air Force and how his time at Loyola and at LBCSI were helpful to his career in the Air Force. Patrick also discussed with us the experiences that he had on his way to the Air Force Academy, and the process of becoming a pilot.

Then, on February 26, we were joined by Debra Mirabile, former DoD agent and mother of Finn Mirabile '25. Mrs. Mirabile discussed her career in government service, different career opportunities, and gave advice and lessons on her experience in the field.

Finally, James McManus '06, former NSA linguist and current Cisco Talos Incident Responder, spoke on March 5th. James spoke on a wide range of topics, such as mental health, burnout, and his experience at the NSA and on the Cisco Talos team. We greatly appreciate our alum's continued interest and support for our program!

## Social Media Presentations & School Visits

On January 5th, Teddy Marine '24, Nathan Porter '27 and Steve Morrill went to Harford Day School to talk to the 3rd-5th graders about internet safety and digital footprint. Nathan, Teddy, and the students discussed Roblox, hacking, and Snapchat; we are continually impressed with young students' digital awareness and willingness to learn!

Additionally, LBCSI will be traveling to St. Casimir this April to present to their 5th-8th graders and parents on social media and online safety!

## St. Margaret Middle School STEM Night

On March 7th, Field Operations leads Teddy Marine '24 and Jack Wachter '24 visited St. Margaret's Middle School STEM Night to showcase LBCSI's opportunities in learning, careers, and community to middle schoolers considering Loyola Blakefield and LBCSI. Discussions ranged from visiting Estonia, internships, and our competition on March 23rd, LBC2. Jack and Teddy had a great time talking with the students and hope they consider joining LBCSI!



## Thank You Sponsors

Thank You to our sponsors on behalf of the entire LBCSI program. We would like to thank all of our partners who graciously invest their resources in LBCSI. We are grateful for your continued support and guidance over the past eleven years. We want to specifically thank our presenting partner: The Edward St. John Foundation and cornerstone partner T. Rowe Price. A special thank you goes out to the Edward St. John Foundation President, Ms. Sharon Akers. We appreciate the continued interest in the development of our cyber students, and we look forward to continuing our work with these sponsors in the future.



Thank you all for taking the time to read this year's Winter Newsletter! Your continued interest and support is what makes our efforts possible. As always, Roll Dons Roll!

We hope you are all doing well and staying healthy.

Thanks again,

Teddy Marine '24,

Jack Wachter '24,

Nathan Porter '27,

Mr. Stephen Morrill,

The entirety of Loyola Blakefield's Cyber Science Initiative

