



Officer David M. Petzold
Digital Forensics Laboratory
of Lehigh County



DEDICATION
24 March 2011

With gratitude for the opportunity given me by District Attorney Martin, I am honored to offer a few words of dedication today.

When we first broached the subject of locating this new laboratory here in the basement, I offered a little tour of the space to Trooper Paul Ianacce and Officers Joe Pochron and Tom Nicoletti. I was astounded when they told me it was perfect ... precisely because they could get no cell phone reception down here! I thought that rather odd, but I'll leave it to them to explain the digital logic in that. But now, coming back here again to see the finished project, I appreciate the perfection of this space in a new sense. It's away from the limelight; it's where work will be done according to the highest standards; and it's a way to look out for the safety of others. In other words, it really is **a perfect place** ... one that reflects perfectly the way that Officer David Petzold made a difference in our community.

My **first encounter** with Officer Petzold was in April of 2006, when he and his partner came to campus to conduct a workshop we were sponsoring on the dangers of social media (and this was long before Facebook became the prominent lifeline that it is for people today). Even then, it was easy to see that Officer Petzold's interest in speaking to our students was not primarily the prevention of crime, but a concern for the well-being of young people "in his backyard," so to speak.

That solicitude for the local community – a hallmark of Officer Petzold's life and work – is precisely why we, at DeSales University, are so happy to be involved in this project. Yes, there may be some **pragmatic benefit** to us, in terms of strengthening our academic programs in Criminal Justice – in particular, our master's degree in Digital Forensics and our ACCESS Summer training experience for high school students called Crime FITE.

After all, the officers who will be working here are experts in the field, and the technology provided through the generosity of the Petzold Foundation will make this lab so state-of-the-art that it may be the best one in the entire Commonwealth.

But the real reason we wanted to house this lab on our campus is much more basic. Put simply, ***it's the right thing for us to do.*** As citizens of Upper Saucon Township and of Lehigh County, this is but one small way that we can contribute to the good of our community, and one special means to honor a beloved police officer who cared for us all. And those are not just my sentiments; when I approached our trades workers and facilities supervisors with this idea, they immediately jumped on board and volunteered their labor, because they, too, know it's the right thing for us to do. (And soon you will see the fruits of their hard work.)

Some four hundred years ago, the patron of our University – **ST. FRANCIS DE SALES** – explained the principle underlying our involvement here in these terms: If, as we believe, human beings are created “bearing the image of God in ourselves, [then] all of us are consequently the image of each other” (*Lenten Sermons*, page 88). This lab, we hope, will be a long-standing and effective way to care for that shared image, and for the common safety of our fellow citizens.

That focus on the well-being of persons is what characterized Officer Petzold's work as a policeman and our township's first detective, a career that was all too short, but one for which we remain ever grateful. The memorabilia that Jessica (Petzold) has placed here will be a constant reminder of that career. But what hangs here today, and for as long as this digital forensics laboratory will be in existence, is not just in “memory” of him nor as an “honor” to his past. Rather, we see it **as a sign, as a message**, that Officer David M. Petzold is, and always will be, a shining example of what is just and good in our world. We at DeSales University are proud of our alumnus and are delighted to be associated with the important work that now continues in his name.

Thank you.