Summer Break for Bikes
Carole Lee, Bike Abatement Manager

THAT LONG ANTICIPATED time of year is here – Stanford Summer Break! The last minute move-out frenzy, not as much room in the Purple Pod as had been imagined, too much “stuff” and too little time. At last, on the road or in the air, headed for a few months away from the pressure of projects, finals, lectures...

What about your trusted transportation that took you everywhere you wanted to go, never required fuel, seldom received maintenance, waited patiently outside your residence, classroom, library...What about your BIKE?

When you return to Stanford in September will it still be waiting for you? If you stored it with Housing or squeezed it in your pod, then the answer is yes. If you left it on its own or imposed upon a friend to assume responsibility for it, there is a good chance you will not see it again. Theft is a major threat to bikes during the school year that escalates exponentially when students leave campus for the summer. There are other options for your bike if you don’t want to store it. You can donate it to a charity or contact SUDPS to donate it to the Salvation Army. If you decide to sell it, SUpost.com and craigslist.org are some options. Do your part to make Stanford less attractive to thieves this summer.

A Burglar’s Shopping Spree
Deputy Harris Kuhn

CROOKS ARE VERY good at what they do. They know when the academic year ends, they know community members leave their doors unlocked and property strewn about, and they know when we have a tendency to let our guard down. Be wary of strangers who wander through the dorms and residences. If they are suspicious enough to give you pause, then they are suspicious enough to report to the police. Don’t confront them but get a good description and a direction of travel. Let the police identify them and take the appropriate action.

Don’t store your property outside your dorm door, in the hallway or in your car, even if you are leaving campus early the next morning. Thousands of dollars of property is lost each year simply because someone thought it was safe to leave it in the hallway or car overnight on their last night in the dorm. It’s not! Keep your property secure in your locked room or the locked trunk of your vehicle. It takes but a moment for your stuff to walk away, never to be seen again.

Abated bikes in the bike lot

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The Front Seat is More Comfortable

Deputy Stephanie Taylor

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety Ride-Along Program provides community members with the opportunity to sit in the front seat of a patrol car with a Stanford Deputy Sheriff and experience firsthand a few hours in the life of an on-duty patrol officer. Typically, the length of time for riding along is between two to four hours. There is no fee for participating -- it is our sincere pleasure to share information with you about our career choice. Some of the information you will learn about includes:

- Radio traffic: how we communicate with other deputies, the Palo Alto Police Department, and the 911 dispatch center.
- How we respond to calls for services such as 911 calls for help, bike thefts, suspicious persons, collisions, and verbal and physical disputes.
- What types of equipment we carry on our person and in our vehicles.
- Officer safety: why we perform our duties the way we do (e.g., why we stand a certain way and why we talk a certain way, why we "control" people a certain way).
- The training we have taken: Six months at the police academy, ongoing training such as defensive tactics, first aid, evidence processing, high speed pursuit and low speed driving, firearms, emergency operations, and “active shooter” training.
- Community outreach participation: the Community Police Academy, Public Safety Contact for student residences, preschool and grade school visits.
- Our special assignment positions: motorcycle and bicycle units, dignitary protection, special event coordination, canine unit, and specialty instructors.

Ride Alongs also give you the opportunity to get to know the person behind the badge. The 24+ officers we have in our department can collectively speak several different languages; our backgrounds vary immensely and many of us have specializations in other fields. We are or have been attorneys, medical doctors, teachers, professors, youth ministers, artists, computer programmers, military personnel, construction workers, and private sector business people. Many of our deputies have pets, most have children, and some have grandchildren. Our hobbies vary from skateboarding, martial arts, salsa dancing, and cycling, to wine tasting, ham radio, gardening, and playing the guitar.

Warning......It is common for Ride-Along participants to enjoy the experience so much that they begin pursuing careers in law enforcement and public safety! We are open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, and with a few days of notice, we can usually accommodate your schedule. We look forward scheduling your ride along. Contact us at community-outreach@lists.stanford.edu or call 650-723-9633.

Building Threat Assessments

Bill Larson, Crime Prevention

AS A FOLLOW-UP to a Building Managers’ Meeting on March 11th where Chief Wilson, Lt. Kay Iida, and other members of the Department of Public Safety presented on addressing the threats and violence that university campuses around the Nation have experienced over the last few years, we now offer FREE threat or vulnerability assessments of any building, lab, or facility on campus or other nearby locations owned or leased by Stanford. The assessment entails a walk-thru of the building by our trained personnel and preferably your building or facilities manager. We will identify potential vulnerabilities or threats to occupants, valuables (e.g., personal items, laptops, chemicals, research), and the building itself. We will then summarize our findings and include recommendations in a confidential report for your review.

If you are interested in an assessment, please contact either Bill Larson at william.larson@stanford.edu or Lt. Kay Iida at kiida@stanford.edu. You can plan on an appointment usually within 10 days. Our goal and purpose is to help you prevent theft, keep you safe, and be better prepared for a critical incident on campus which can strike at any time, at any place, and without notice.

Myth or Fact?

MYTH: It is always illegal to pick the California Poppy.

FACT: There is no law that specifically prohibits picking California Poppies but CA Penal Code section § 384a makes it a misdemeanor to cut or remove any plant growing on state or county highways or on public lands. It is also illegal to remove plants from private property without the owner’s permission. The section does not prohibit growing and cutting your own California Poppies.
SCERTainly NEWSworthy
Melissa Dubois

OUR STANFORD Community Emergency Response Team (SCERT) numbers are growing! On May 22, our latest SCERT class graduated. It’s hard to believe that this is our fifth group to go through the five-day, 20-hour training course. In addition to this last group of graduates, the ITS Emergency Response Team trained under the Palo Alto Neighborhood Disaster Activities (PANDA) group has been incorporated into our SCERT response team. This brings our SCERT member count to almost 100 Stanford staff members.

SCERT encourages University staff to become better prepared to respond to earthquakes and other critical incidents. During emergencies on campus, SCERT members will be able fill the necessary roles in assisting with evacuation of building occupants, light search and rescue, basic first aid and medical support, campus security, and other critical campus support functions. SCERT classes will also be offered in July and September 2009. For more information visit the SCERT website at http://scert.stanford.edu or contact preparedness@lists.stanford.edu.

Upcoming Training: The ITS SCERT group holds monthly training sessions and has graciously offered to include interested SCERT, PANDA and other CERT members in their training classes. Their next training is scheduled for June 16 from 10:30am to noon or on June 18 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. They will review building evacuations and survival action priorities. Please RSVP to Tom Prussing at IT services if you would like to attend the training session. His email address is tom.prussing@stanford.edu.

Don’t Give Criminals a Chance!

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety strongly urges you to remove all items from view inside your parked vehicle: all briefcases, computer cases, gym bags, and all electronic accessories. Also, remove any mounting devices for electronic equipment (e.g., GPS) and accessories or conceal them so they are not visible to anyone looking into the vehicle. A mounting device left in view may be an indicator to a thief that its associated electronic device may still be hidden in the vehicle (glove compartment). Immediately report any suspicious persons in the area of parked vehicles by dialing 9-1-1 from a cell phone, 9-9-1-1 from a campus phone, or activating a blue 911 emergency tower.

To Better Serve You...
John Hughmanick, Training Manager

AT SUDPS, WE STRIVE to continually improve ourselves through on-going training in order to better serve the Stanford Community and challenges of the future. Some of the training SUDPS employees have attended since March 1st includes: Impact Weapons update, Legal update, Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor course, Officer Safety and Field Tactics, Scenario Training, Domestic Violence Intervention, Response to Calls In-progress, High Risk building searches and confronting armed intruders.
Pedestrian Zone Safety!
Bill Larson, Crime Prevention

FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL who use the Pedestrian Zone, we ask that bicyclists, skateboarders, and carts PLEASE exercise proper etiquette, safety, and always be mindful of others around you. Recently, it was reported to us that a group of elementary school students visiting the totem pole and other art work between Meyer Library and the Law School were traumatized by bicyclists who rode through their group during a class break. One child was knocked down and injured. The bicyclist that hit the child slowed and looked back but then continued on without checking on the child for any injuries, or even offering an apology! Another bicyclist rode across the grass island where the children were playing around the totem pole and nearly struck a second child. We consider these actions unconscionable, not to mention a felonious violation of the law when someone is struck and injured and the violator fails to stop, render aid and contact authorities.

Bicyclists should always follow the basic rules of the road even in the Pedestrian Zone which includes: yielding at intersections, following the proper route around traffic circles, passing others safely, and staying on the asphalt or within the marked bicycle lanes. As a reminder, the Pedestrian Zone was established and designed “…to create a safer central campus for bicyclists and pedestrians…” with the responsibility on both to exercise due caution. With the many visitors and tour groups that visit the campus we ask for your cooperation and attention to safety to avoid a serious injury to yourself or others.

Shining Stars
Deputy Pete Posada

BURGLARS BEWARE! On May 23rd, an alert student at the Jerry House noticed a person, who was not a resident at their house, coming out of a room and acting suspiciously. The student questioned the person who then fled down a hallway and barricaded himself in a bathroom. More students came out to help and the RA called 911. Deputies arrived on scene. Stolen property was found on the person, and he was arrested for burglary. Thanks to the residents at the Jerry House for their quick action and cooperation with the Department of Public Safety.

Braun Bike Racks Are Here!
Jasmin Martinez, CSO

NEW BIKE RACKS and bicycle parking spaces are now available at the Braun Music Center. Thanks to the dedication and perseverance of Administrative Director, Mario Champagne and the University's Planning Department, the new bike racks were installed in May. This new bicycle parking area makes Braun's breezeway a safer travelling route and a more attractive entry into the Pedestrian Zone. Come check it out!

Bike Safety Class

THIS YEAR the Department of Public Safety and Parking and Transportation Services introduced the Bike Diversion Program. It works like “traffic school” for bike riders who get a citation.

If you have received a citation: In lieu of paying a fine or going to court for a bicycle citation, you may elect to participate in an educational bicycle diversion program. This program is available only during the first 30 days from the date the citation was issued. After that time period, the citation will be sent to the court for normal processing.

For those of you who have not received a citation but are interested in learning more about biking safely on campus you can sign up and attend this class too! The bike safety presentation is free and the 60 minute class will enlighten and entertain you.

Click on the Bike Safety Presentation link on the police website http://police.stanford.edu for information about the next available bicycle safety presentation.
Internet Scams, Shams and Schemes
Deputy Harris Kuhn

As the 2008-2009 academic year draws to a close, we all become preoccupied with finals, graduation, vacation, the bar exam, moving out and moving on. But, now is not the time to let down our guard. There are people out there who will take advantage of the open, trusting and welcoming character of the Stanford community. As always, I stress the fact that the Stanford is an extraordinarily safe place to live and work, but has the same problems as any suburban community. One of the increasing problems to plague the community is Internet theft and fraud. We believe that we are the master of our own domain, yet without a healthy dose of common sense, we are at the mercy of those who would scam us by trick or artifice. Here are some thoughts about dealing with those who use electronic means to make our lives miserable.

If an offer seems too good to be true, it probably is. There is always a catch. Why is someone selling goods or services at such a ridiculously low price? Maybe the goods are stolen, or maybe they don’t exist at all. How very easy it is to sell non-existent goods over the Internet while getting away without punishment.

Scrub the legitimacy of a website. Most recently, a postdoc sought to obtain a “green card” through a commercial website. The U.S. State Department advised that the only legitimate way to get a green card or get in the “green card lottery” is by application to the State Department.

Don’t get involved in complex transactions. The latest scam: paying for a small transaction with a high dollar value money order then asking the seller to refund the difference. The victim then sends the change back to the buyer and the money order bounces, leaving the original party holding the bag. A few of our community members are now out the $2,500.00 it took to cover the “money order.”

Don’t call me, I’ll call you. No legitimate online merchant, retailer, bank or financial service company will call you and ask for your identifying information. You should be the one to initiate the transaction. All transactions should come from your side of the ledger, not the other way around. Don’t get phished!

OMG! Think before you post! What happens on the net stays on the net! Internet professionals say that whatever is posted on the net never goes away. It is always out there, just waiting to be mined by someone who might not have your best interest at heart. So whether you blog or tweet or post pictures of yourself doing body shots at the Giggling Marlin, think of the potential downside of what might end up on the World Wide Web.

Smile...you’re on candid camera. One of the first things we teach our deputies is that cameras are ubiquitous. Everyone has a cell phone with a camera, everyone has a video camera, and every place has security cameras. We cannot escape the fact that the digital imaging is everywhere and what the camera eye sees can and will end up on the net. Discretion is always the better part of valor.

We hope you now have the message that good common sense, combined with a healthy dose of skepticism and some critical thinking will always pay dividends when on net.

New Public Safety Officers

Please welcome the five new Public Safety Officers (PSOs) currently assigned to the Parking Division. The PSOs perform building security, event management, and traffic control in addition to their primary assignment of parking enforcement. The PSOs have allowed us to double the size of our parking enforcement team (so it might be wise to buy that parking permit!). Be aware, as of May 6th, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors increased the bail amount for all violations of the parking code by $10 throughout the County.

Clockwise from left: PSOs Magallon, Campos, Adinolfi, Fong and Johnson

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