The Community Police Academy

Kathy Harris, Community Outreach & Education

What’s on a deputy’s belt? Where are arrestees taken? How accurate are field sobriety tests? Are CSI’s methods realistic when it comes to collecting and processing evidence? What are the differences between SUDPS’s sworn and non-sworn uniformed personnel? This quarter a diverse group of 28 Stanford staff and students met on Wednesday evenings to find out the answers to these questions and more.

Over the course of our nine week Community Police Academy (CPA), 16 SUDPS personnel, Assistant District Attorney Mike Galli, and threat assessor Dr. Stephen White presented and shared personal experiences to help demystify law enforcement and the unique characteristics of serving a university. Highlights included laws of arrest, simulated firearm scenarios, patrol procedures, and a demonstration by the department’s bomb-sniffing dog, Red.

In addition to the regular class meeting time, CPA participants also had opportunities to go on a ride-along with an SUDPS deputy and take field trips to driving simulators at The Academy (police training center), Palo Alto Communications (dispatch center), and the Santa Clara County Main Jail in San Jose.

Armed with a greater understanding of and appreciation for police work, we hope that participants will return to their residences and workplaces with a heightened awareness of how SUDPS serves the community and what roles they and their peers can take to promote campus safety.

Interested in joining us next year? Contact publicsafety@lists.stanford.edu to be notified of when we begin accepting applications for our 2013 academy.
Campus Bike Safety After Dark

Carole Pierce, Bicycle Abatement

Imagine you’re walking down a Stanford sidewalk one evening, back from the gym or perhaps a continuing studies class, when suddenly it happens: the squeal of the brakes, the skid of the tires, and the clicking grind of a chain as pedaling resumes. And just like that, they’re gone as quickly as they appeared, leaving you with an elevated heart rate, muttering to yourself in annoyance, “I didn’t even see them coming!”

Whether you traverse Stanford on streets or pathways, via bike, foot, or car, chances are you’ve experienced this situation more than once. The all too common combination of dark clothing and lack of bike lights leaves little chance for cyclists to see each other or nearby pedestrians until the last seconds, if at all. While most subjects are left in state of mere agitation, bike collisions can result in far worse injuries – especially when riders aren’t wearing helmets.

In response, the Department of Public Safety, Parking and Transportation Services, and the Campus Bike Shop have partnered to encourage safer biking etiquette and increase nighttime visibility with “Bike Safety After Dark.” This new program kicked off on February 13th and 15th at the intersection of Serra and Lasuen Malls.

Sprocket Man and Woman (played by two Stanford students) danced, cajoled, and convinced passing cyclists to take advantage of the program’s discount prices to put helmets on riders’ heads and lights on the fronts of their bikes. Over the two evenings, the group sold 31 bike helmets and 76 bike lights.

The group also collected information on the frequency of helmet use through observation and written surveys. During a 45 minute window on one of the nights, only half of the 341 cyclists who passed by the event were wearing helmets. This finding was consistent with the written surveys that showed 52% of participants wore helmets “rarely, occasionally, or never.” 100% of those who were wearing helmets were graduate students.

All community members are strongly encouraged to abide by the rules of the road as well as follow additional personal safety precautions. Though the law only requires a front light, studies have shown riders who also have lights on the sides of their bikes are most visible. And just because it’s legal for adults to ride without a helmet that doesn’t mean it’s safe to. Please put one on before you “hit the road!”

Sprocket Man was created by Stanford alum Louis H. Saekow
Deputy Allen James, Investigations

Running late – and through that stop sign? Plugged in and zoned out with both earbuds in? Riding unsafely or committing a moving or mechanical violation on a bike can cost you – in physical injury as well as fines.

Bicyclists are often surprised to discover the fines and fees for bike violations are roughly equivalent to motor vehicle violation fines. The standard fine plus fees for running a stop sign or wearing audio headsets in/over both ears is $194. Failing to use a front white bike light at night can cost as much if the violation is not corrected and the citation is not signed off by a police officer.

Fortunately, violators who are cited by a SUDPS deputy may elect (within 30 days of receiving a citation) to attend one of two monthly one-hour Bicycle Diversion Program safety class in lieu of paying a fine or going to court. Bicyclists may attend the class once every 18 months. In collaboration with Parking and Transportation Services, this class covers the rules of the road and shares tips on staying safe while riding on campus. Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear a helmet.

Please take any citation you receive seriously, as the court definitely will. Violators who neglect to resolve the issue within the specified time limit have been shocked to receive notices from the court advising them they owe $800-900 or more in fines, fees, and penalties. Considering these high costs, an hour time investment to attend this class seems like a real bargain!

Questions? Email me at allen.james@stanford.edu or call SUDPS during office hours at (650)723-9633.

Upcoming Classes:
• Wednesday, April 11 at 4 pm
• Tuesday, April 24 at 4 pm

@ Parking & Transportation Programs
340 Bonair Siding, Conf Rm H, D & L

Register online within 30 days of your violation at: www.stanford.edu/group/SUDPS/cgi-bin/diversion.php
Avoid the Lidar!

*Deputy Eric Fenton, Special Events*

When someone mentions lasers, many devices and uses come to mind such as laser pointers for presentations, a toy for the cat to chase around, the Pink Floyd Laser Light Show, or even the laser used by Cyclops of X-Men (for those not old enough to know who Pink Floyd is). Many law enforcement agencies also use lasers for speed enforcement.

The Stanford University Department of Public Safety is now using **Lidar** (Light detection and ranging) to enforce the speed limit, especially the 25 MPH speed limit on Stanford Avenue near Escondido and Nixon Elementary Schools.

Lidar differs from the radars typically used by law enforcement agencies in that its detection technology uses light rather than a high frequency radio wave.

**Radar** sends out a cone shaped pattern that expands the further it gets from the radar unit. The amount of time it takes the radio wave to return to the unit indicates the speed of the vehicle. This calculation is called Doppler.

**Lidar**, on the other hand, uses a “time-of-flight” to determine the speed of a vehicle by sending out pulses of light like a laser. The timer starts when the pulse is transmitted and stops once that pulse has hit the target and returned. Dividing distance traveled by time determines vehicle speed.

The most significant difference between Lidar and other radars is its narrower beam that provides pinpoint accuracy in congested traffic areas. This allows the officer to identify and pick out a specific vehicle to determine the speed without interference from other vehicles in close proximity. The beam cannot be detected by radar detectors until after a speed measurement has already been calculated by the Lidar.

To avoid a citation, allow yourself plenty of time to safely arrive at your destination by following the posted speed limit, especially within school zones. Our goal in enforcing the speed limit with tools such as Lidar is to help prevent accidents and to ensure a safe environment for our community.
AlertSU: Enhancing Community Safety

Lara Walker, Training and Compliance

Already this year SUDPS has utilized the university’s AlertSU emergency notification system to issue several text and email messages alerting the community to crimes committed on or near campus. We initiate these mass notification messages to make you aware of situations that may threaten your personal safety so that you may take measures to protect yourself. The following are some answers to frequently asked questions.

Why does the university send alerts about certain situations and not others?
A federal law called the Clery Act mandates universities to notify their communities in a timely manner when an incident occurs that is believed to pose a threat to the community’s safety. This regulation applies to specific criminal activities including: aggravated assault, sex offenses (including rape), robbery, burglary, motor vehicle theft, arson, and homicide; as well as other imminent threats like wildfires, hazardous material spills, or reports of gunshots fired.

What determines which method of communication you employ?
Our mass notification system can deliver alerts via text message, email, and/or phone as well as an outdoor siren warning system. We also post additional information and updates on our website (police.stanford.edu) as time allows. When determining which method(s) to use, several factors are considered including: the type of threat, the urgency of the threat, the time of day, how to reach the greatest number of community members, and compliance with legal mandates.

Why do you send me a text alert in the middle of the night while I’m sleeping?
The AlertSU system cannot track where people are located and what they are doing at the time a warning is sent. It is impossible to know, for example, if a faculty member is working late in an office; a staff person is away from campus on a business trip; or if a student is walking across campus in the early morning hours after a night of studying late at the library or spending an evening with friends. We would rather err on the side of caution and minimally inconvenience someone than risk that person not knowing about a situation that might pose a threat to his or her safety.

Why don’t you include a more detailed description of what happened?
AlertSU is an emergency notification system — not a form of news media. Our first priority is the community’s safety, therefore, we focus our communications on the information most relevant for you to take measures to protect yourself. Because our text alerts are limited to 160 characters, we typically only include the most basic information on incident type, location, and time. Whenever we issue an alert, we post additional information and updates our website (police.stanford.edu) as time allows.

Learn more about AlertSU at alertsu.stanford.edu.

How do I update my contact information?

Faculty & Staff:
1. Log in to stanfordyou.stanford.edu.
2. Choose the option to Maintain your directory and AlertSU emergency contact information.
3. Edit your contact information in the appropriate field(s).
4. Ensure that the OK to use for AlertSU checkbox is selected. Note that you can keep this information otherwise private (e.g. not posted on your StanfordWho directory entry) by choosing “Private” from the drop-down menu on the right-hand side.

Students & Postdocs:
Update your emergency contact information in http://axess.stanford.edu.
As the 2011-2012 academic year draws to a close, we all become preoccupied with finals, graduation, vacation, moving out and moving on. Though Stanford is an extraordinarily safe place to live and work, there are people who will try to take advantage of the open, trusting, and welcoming character of our community. We face similar susceptibilities as other suburban communities, including Internet theft and fraud. Here are a few tips on how to avoid falling hook, line, and sinker.

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.

Scrutinize the legitimacy of a website. Recently a Postdoc sought to obtain a “green card” through a commercial website — though the U.S. State Department advises 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 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 always be the one to initiate the transaction. Don’t get phished!

Don’t get involved in complex transactions. One of the latest scams we’ve seen is 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 — sometimes for up to $2,500!

Don’t buy anything from a merchant that doesn’t have “https” in the URL and a padlock icon in the security bar. These indicators don’t always guarantee your safety, but they’re a step in the right direction. Avoid fraud by only making transactions on trustworthy websites.

OMG! Think before you post! What happens on the net stays on the net... forever. Whether you blog or tweet or post pictures of yourself doing body shots at the Giggling Marlin, consider the consequences of that material getting into the wrong hands — like those of a future employer.

Smile, you’re on candid camera. One of the first things we teach our deputies is that cameras are ubiquitous. Most cell phones now have camera and video camera functionality, and what they record can easily be shared and posted on the net. Discretion is always the better part of valor.

Common sense combined with a healthy dose of skepticism and some critical thinking will always pay dividends when on net. Don’t get eliminated!

Do you suspect you’re a victim of identity theft?
- File a police report!
- Review your credit reports closely and place a “Fraud Alert.”
- Explore resources at: www.identitytheftcouncil.org

phishing
(fish’ing) (n.) the act of sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.
# Who’s Who at Stanford DPS

## Allen James

- Deputy currently assigned to administrative work, with evidence and court liaison as my primary duties
- Be a cowboy or pilot
- Real Estate and Mortgage Banking, plus many years as a cop in a city police department
- A criminal justice college course and experiences as a part-time officer led me to change my major and pursue law enforcement full-time
- Americano with a bit of steamed milk
- Dancing and swimming
- Music, mostly. But, I also sew -- my Mom taught me when I was a kid
- I used to be a “Rod buster” tying steel as part of bridge construction

## Natira Johnson

- Public Safety Officer assigned to parking enforcement
- Join the military or be a policewoman
- Truck driver for Coca Cola
- I’ve always wanted to be a leader and have some type of demanding job
- Nothing, that’s not my thing
- Gone with the Wind
- Dancing and swimming
- I used to be a “Rod buster” tying steel as part of bridge construction

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*Source: SUDPS Rap Sheet, Winter 2012*
For more info. on how to keep safe and secure, contact: Bill Larson, Crime Prevention and Community Safety @ william.larson@stanford.edu.

**IMMEDIATELY CALL 911 or 9-911 from a campus phone**

1. **Go to a safe location and immediately call 9-1-1 (or 9-9-1-1 from a campus phone) or activate the nearest blue 911 emergency tower.**

2. **Be prepared to provide the dispatcher with the following information:**
   a. Your **location** and the location of the peeper or prowler.
   b. **Physical description** (gender, race, approximate age, height, weight or build, hair color and style, clothing, and if he/she is carrying anything).
   c. **Vehicle description, if any associated** (approximate year, make, model, color, noticeable characteristics, and, if possible, the license plate number and state).
   d. **Last direction of travel** and if he/she is on foot, vehicle, or bicycle.
   e. **Remain on the phone** until released by the dispatcher or a Deputy on arrival.

3. **Do NOT** leave your residence or safe location.

4. **Lock** all doors and windows, close curtains and blinds, and activate outside lights.

5. **Do NOT** confront the peeper or prowler. If you are confronted, immediately move to a safe and secure location. If necessary, yell out or scream to attract attention of others which may also scare away the individual.

The Department of Public Safety issues **AlertSU** Timely Warnings for in progress peeping and prowling incidents so that you can take appropriate precautions.

Following an SMS text, email, and/or phone alert, we’ll post more information on our site as it becomes available and as time permits: [http://police.stanford.edu](http://police.stanford.edu)

**SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!**