Greetings and thank you for taking the time to read another edition of our newsletter. My team and I remain committed to the safety and welfare of this prestigious institution and I am confident that our second edition of the Gaucho Guardian will be every bit as informative as the first. I enjoy being able to provide the community with department updates, crime prevention tips and to share with you just a few of the awards that my team has earned.

Since my arrival in November 2009, I have had the great pleasure of working with many dedicated university employees, developing strong working partnerships. Cultivating such partnerships is one of the most vital aspects of community-oriented policing. Partnerships allow me to meet our law enforcement mission — reducing crime, the fear of crime, and finding new ways of minimizing social disorder and rectifying community problems.

On a much different note, Spring is always an exciting time of the year. I have been thinking allot about the accomplishments of all the UCSB graduates who will soon be walking across the stage; and the robust team of university professionals who work tirelessly to educate, administer and foster an environment that facilitates the personal growth so important to our mission as an institution. I also think about all the amazing student employees who have served my department and the campus community with professionalism and pride. These talented individuals will soon be departing our campus to take on new and exciting challenges. Best wishes to each of you and remember to be safe. Go Gauchos!

Feel free to provide me with any comments, suggestions, or questions by contacting me directly at dustin.olson@police.ucsb.edu

Best Regards,
Dustin Olson
Chief of Police

The first quarterly Gaucho Gathering was held on April 29th, with a modest turnout. The event kicked off with a presentation on active shooter situations given by UCSB police officers. This talk was followed by Q&A with Chief of Police Dustin Olson.

This dynamic presentation has already been given to multiple departments on campus and is available in a customizable format upon request. The video and slideshow shown are designed to inculcate a survival mindset in people, should they ever experience something of this nature. After the slideshow a raffle was held and prizes from the Ucen Bookstore were given out, there was also free pizza and attendees had access to crime prevention brochures.

In subsequent gatherings, issues such as identity theft and personal safety will be topics of presentation. Sergeant Matt Bowman concludes, “this event was a tangible example of community oriented policing. An open dialogue with members of the community — the people that we serve, is priceless. My hope is that as we continue to host these relevant and informative events, more people will attend.” The Department of Public Safety partnered with Associated Students, the Ucen Bookstore, Dominos Pizza and Counseling Services to put on this event. Be on the lookout for future gatherings!
With throngs of bikes, skateboards and pedestrians, UCSB can get pretty hectic between class times. There are approximately 14,000 people that commute to UCSB every day by bicycle, hundreds of others by skateboard. Accidents occur frequently on campus and it is for this reason that bike and skateboard use is regulated. California Vehicle Code 21113(F) stipulates that the Regents of the University of California may specify conditions for the use of bicycles, motorized bicycles, skateboards and roller skates on university property. In general these conditions aim to reduce accidents by separating bicyclists from pedestrians and making certain areas off limits to skateboards (e.g. the Pardall Tunnel). The full text of 21113(f) is distributed to incoming students in the form of the Rolling Stock Brochure, printed in the Daily Nexus and is contained on the Department of Public Safety website (www.police.ucsb.edu). Breaking the rules outlined in 21113(f) can result in a citation of approximately $170!

This is a considerable amount of money, especially for students. Therefore, UC administration reached an agreement with the court system to reduce this fine. However, this reduction is contingent on individuals taking a bicycle and skateboard safety class which is taught here at UCSB by UCPD police officers. Taking this class reduces the cost of the ticket to a small administrative fee of $35.

In this course students have the opportunity to learn about bike safety and talk to police officers about law enforcement on campus. “It’s kind of like traffic school for bikes, with Q and A at the end,” explains Officer Mitch Molitor. The class receives positive feedback from the attendees, one of whom said, “I really didn’t expect the class to be as fun as it was! It’s not like I want to take it again or anything, but... [the officer] made it interesting and I learned a lot more than just how to put on a helmet.” The Bicycle and Skateboard Safety class is held every 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of the month at 3:00PM. An individual who is cited has 14 days to sign up for the class and 21 days to actually take the course. The administrative fee of $35 is payable in cash or check only. Registration for the class is in Building 300.

"People are not an interruption of our business. People are our business."

Walter E. Washington, Politician and Mayor of Washington D.C.
These individuals, combined, have over 100 years of 911 police dispatching experience. Some of our dispatchers have experience with other law enforcement agencies, while others have come up through the ranks at UCSB. Public Safety Dispatchers are on duty and available to the community 24/7, 365 days a year.

So, what does it take to be a dispatcher? Customer service is the cornerstone for all UCSB dispatchers. Dispatchers interact with people directly through the dispatch window and indirectly on the phone. Students, staff, faculty, parents, the news media, as well as numerous county agencies are all “customers.” On a daily basis, dispatchers will field questions from members of the community.

The ability to multi-task is absolutely imperative. Dispatchers handle the simplest of calls one moment and the most critical and life threatening the next. It is the dispatcher’s job to obtain as much information about a crime as possible, while simultaneously taking other calls for service. Dispatchers are specially trained to control conversations in order to gather information from panicked or distracted callers; as a result, interactions can be challenging.

Formal dispatch training includes the completion of the department’s communications training program, as well as successful completion of a state-mandated dispatch academy. After this training is completed, a new dispatcher receives several months of on-the-job training with a communications training officer. Discretion and professionalism are required for this profession; dispatchers receive and disseminate confidential law enforcement information daily.

UCSB’s public safety dispatchers are confident, calm and well trained in crisis situations, while still compassionate and empathetic when addressing your concerns!

CRIME PREVENTION: PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

A recent survey conducted by the Washington Post found that individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 are at the greatest risk of identity theft. Since most of our community belongs to this age group, this issue deserves our attention. Identity theft is a serious crime and occurs when someone uses your personal identifying information to commit fraud or other crimes. Identity theft costs time and money and can have lasting effects on your credit!

One of the main reasons people in this age group are at the greatest risk of identity theft is because it takes them longer to discover the occurrence of fraud. By routinely monitoring your financial accounts and billing statements you are better able to detect suspicious activity. Thieves sometimes divert your billing statements to another location by completing a change of address form. If you fail to receive a statement, conduct follow-up with the credit card company or your bank immediately! Another reason this age group is a target for identity theft is because they can be cavalier in giving out their personal information. You should always guard your personal information! Do not carry your social security card in your wallet and only give out this number if absolutely necessary. Keep your personal information in a secure place at home, especially if there are a lot of people living or visiting your house.

There are a few simple precautions you can take to further minimize the risk of having your identity stolen. Shredding old financial documents and papers with personal information is a significant deterrent to dumpster divers.

In creating a password, use a mixture of numbers, symbols, upper and lowercase letters. Whatever you do, do not make the password obvious. Do not open links sent in unsolicited emails, and never install programs from an unverified or untrustworthy source!

Hopefully we have shared some helpful and perhaps hitherto unknown tips.

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ID THEFT
(CONTINUED FROM P.3)

However, what should you do if you find yourself the victim of identity theft?

First, you should place a fraud alert on your credit reports by calling Equifax, Experian or TransUnion. These alerts compel creditors to follow certain procedures before new accounts are opened in your name. Next, you should close any accounts tampered with, or that were established fraudulently. Your creditors may also require you to file a police report. Finally, report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/idtheft.

For more information on identity theft and other community issues, consult our brochures, available online at www.police.ucsb.edu.

GET TO KNOW UCSB’S POLICE OFFICERS:
RYAN STONCIPHER

Ryan Stonecipher grew up in the Fresno-Clovis Area and attended Fresno State, receiving a Bachelors of Science in criminal justice and a minor in business. “I was always interested in a career in law enforcement and in college I pursued a major that would help me attain that goal,” says Ryan. Although he has no family members in law enforcement, Ryan wanted a dynamic career that brought him into contact with people. Officer Stonecipher was sworn into UCPD in September of 2008, shortly after graduating the police academy.

Always quick to regale his coworkers with stories from the police academy, Ryan says that “going through the academy was amazing; they expect a lot out of you, both physically and mentally. In the end, the bond you form with your classmates gets you through everything. Your ability to form partnerships is vital, [both] in the academy and later when you start working. But that sense of camaraderie with classmates and with fellow officers really lasts and is something I like best about the job.” Speaking further on his bond with academy classmates, Ryan says, “it’s a bad economy right now, and a lot of my classmates still haven’t found jobs, we all keep in contact and everyone is very supportive.”

When asked what he likes about working at UCSB, Ryan quickly responds, “I really like the whole package, there’s a lot of interesting people and it’s a beautiful area… and I can relate to the student lifestyle, which helps me do my job.” Off-duty, Ryan enjoys going to the gym, traveling, and college football. Ryan chuckles, “downtown Santa Barbara also has some great hangouts.”

Officer Stonecipher is a proactive cop, who enjoys being part of the community and staying busy. Ryan frequently works bike and skateboard enforcement in the inner UCSB campus; and speaking of staying busy, Ryan worked a very long shift during the Floatopia event. “It was great, we got a lot of calls for service, no major injuries, and for the atmosphere seemed positive,” Ryan concludes with a smile.
QUESTION AUTHORITY  
BY SGT. MARK SIGNA

One of the great things about outlets like the Gauc-cho Guardian and the Daily Nexus is that they give me the opportunity to reach out to our community. I often have the occasion to speak to students and members of the UCSB and Isla Vista communities in various formats, and it never ceases to amaze me how many questions people have for us, yet they never seem to ask them. People often have a hard time going up to cops to ask simple questions. But now, thanks to the interwebs, people can watch cats play the organ or tell our friends on MyFace what we had for breakfast, or even ask a cop that question you’ve always wondered about. And just to get it out of the way, yes, I like donuts…

I lost my wallet at one of the campus buildings. How long should I wait before cancelling my credit cards?

If you’ve lost your wallet, go back to the building and check immediately to see if it has been turned in. If you can’t find it, it is a good idea to start cancelling the cards right away. When wallets are stolen, the cash is the first thing to go, but it is not uncommon for the credit cards to be used within a few hours at gas stations or to buy laptops or other expensive items. Depending on your credit card, you can be held liable for up to $50 (per card) if they use them prior to your reporting it stolen to the company. You have no responsibility for any charges made after you report it. So, the sooner you report the cards as stolen or lost, the less chance you have of paying those fees.

It seems like everyday at work this strange guy shows up and keeps talking to me. I try to ignore him, but he’s making me feel really uncomfortable and I don’t think he has any reason for being in our office. Is there something I should do to make sure he is not dangerous?

First of all, assuming that we are not talking about your boss, go to your supervisor and explain your concerns. Have them speak to the guy and find out if he has any business in the office or building. If this is not an option or if people feel any hesitation about talking to him, call the police at 805-893-3446. We can send an officer out to talk with the guy and make sure he is there for the right reasons. A huge part of our job is helping to provide a safe working environment for everyone. So if there is anything or anyone odd or unusual, call us, and we’ll check it out for you.

Where can I go to get a fix-it ticket signed off?

Once you have fixed that taillight, attached the registration sticker to the license or duct taped the bumper back on, bring your car to any police station along with your copy of the citation. Once an officer sees that the violation has been fixed, they can sign it off on the back of the ticket. You then need to send a copy to the court to prove the violation has been taken care of. Be sure to include any court fees they might be charging.

Here at UCSB, you can take the ticket to the UCSB Department of Public Safety at the intersection of Stadium and Mesa Road, or to the Isla Vista Foot Patrol office at 6504 Trigo Road. If you are still not sure where to go or you need an officer to meet with you, just call us (805-893-3446) and we will do whatever we can to help get it taken care of.

Got caught by a cop? Your party popped by the Po-Po? Ticked by a ticket? If you have questions, don’t let them eat away at you, Question Authority! E-mail me a n y t i m e a t : QA@police.ucsb.edu.

Law Enforcement Word Scramble:

rtares  ourtc  rioda  neirs
degju  etcteediv  ahcfundfs  debag
gaesnret  ptoar  obna  rttnaaw
The Department of Public Safety is proud to announce that Sergeant Matt Bowman has been awarded the Staff Assembly Citation of Excellence. This program acknowledges the outstanding accomplishments of career staff at UCSB. Significantly, Matt is the first police officer to receive this award.

Since being promoted to Sergeant in 2008, Matt Bowman has assumed new and increasing levels of responsibility effortlessly and with great poise. Most notably, Sergeant Bowman spearheaded an access control overhaul. Matt’s efforts centralized greatly this function at UCSB while expanding the program throughout campus.

Sergeant Bowman is also to be commended for his work as the Department’s Public Information Officer and Special Event Coordinator. In both capacities, Sergeant Bowman interfaces with local media, university administrators and various law enforcement agencies to recommend protective action when necessary, and advises how to deploy department resources during events. In his duties, Matt has demonstrated unrivaled attention to detail, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

Finally, Sergeant Bowman’s work as supervisor of the problem-solving unit has been central in promoting education and awareness of various crimes, as well as in addressing quality of life issues in the community. For example, Matt ensures that members of his unit routinely identify areas of the campus where bicycle safety is problematic, and take appropriate enforcement action. Matt also worked to facilitate the first annual Lighting and Safety Walk in February and the Gaucho Gathering in the end of April.

Sergeant Bowman is a committed police officer. His multifaceted skill set is an asset the department and it is with great pride that we congratulate him. Matt Bowman joined nine other career staff members in receiving this honor.

Corporal Wilson was honored by the California Office of Traffic Safety, Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Santa Barbara AVOID Campaign for DUI enforcement. DUI investigation is a very complex and structured process. Dan made 29 DUI arrests in the previous year alone.

Last but certainly not least, Captain Cathy Farley will be recognized later this month by the UCSB Professional Women’s Association as this year’s Unsung Heroine. This prestigious award highlights the accomplishments of special women who may not make headlines, but make a positive impact on the campus by going above and beyond in the course of their regular duties. Captain Farley will be honored at this year’s annual ceremony at Corwin Plaza on Friday May 21, 2010 at 4:30PM.
TIP-A-COP

The fourth annual UCSB Tip-A-Cop was held on May 5th at the Faculty Club. The Department would like to extend its deepest gratitude to all members of the community who participated in this charitable event. The event raised $851 for the State Special Olympics. As part of this event, Police Officers and Dispatchers took on serving duties, a UCSB Detective even prepared salads with kitchen staff! All gratuities went to benefit the Special Olympics. Faculty Club Staff donated their tips to the event as well. Officer Mitch Molitor, who coordinated the event said, “Law Enforcement is one of the top supporters of the Special Olympics.” Each year, law enforcement agencies from around the state hold Tip-A-Cop events to raise funds for equipment and athletic programs to benefit the Special Olympics.

We would like to recognize all of the department’s graduating student employees. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication. Congratulations Class of 2010!

Renato Aguilara  
Alex Gensemer  
Nathaniel Brunner-Talbee  
Collin Greene  
Lars Burkhardt  
Austin Hain  
Jennifer Carnan  
Thomas Hurst  
Jessica Chernicki  
Kimberly Johnson  
Clay Collier  
Brett Kagy  
Forrest Damon  
Ashlee Kitchin  
Josh Domingo  
Nick Richardson  
Lauren Evans  
Michael Strack

The UCSB Department of Public Safety embraces community policing. It is our mission to work in partnership with the University and surrounding communities to create safer and more informed environments. An important aspect of this relationship is interaction and feedback among police officers, students, faculty and staff. Do you have a question about law enforcement? Would you like to see something covered in the next issue of the Gaucho Guardian? Email the editor at evan.raleigh@police.ucsb.edu. We value and rely on your feedback!