



THE DISPATCH

The University of Scranton Police Department

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UPD Acquires Two New Vehicles

Ofc. Scott Gretzula

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Editor: Erica Armstrong

This January, University Police began patrolling campus in two new Ford Interceptor SUVs. These police vehicles replaced the oldest cars in our fleet, two Chevy Impala sedans, which were purchased in 2010 when the department transitioned from the Department of Public Safety to a fully operational and armed police department. We exceeded our original expectations to replace vehicles on a five year rotation, but with the extreme wear and tear police cars withstand due to long idle times and rapid acceleration, it was evident that replacements would soon be necessary. Now that the Chevy Impalas have been phased out, UPD operates an SUV-only fleet of vehicles, which makes it easier to navigate campus. UPD's new Ford Interceptor SUVs closely resemble the civilian Ford Explorer, however they



Did You Know?

University Police offers a medical transport service for the UofS Community. Any community member who is injured and/or has a disability can request a medical transport to and from any on-campus location once arrangements have been coordinated through Student Health Services.

Since the beginning of the academic year, UPD has executed over 615 medical transports on and around campus for our students, faculty and staff.

have been specifically designed to offer both the protection and the performance necessary to withstand the rigors of police work. Additionally, they are the only 'pursuit-rated' all-wheel-drive vehicles specifically built for law enforcement. What this means is the Ford Interceptors meet specific performance criteria including a 75 -mph rear-crash test and a 30-mph frontal barrier test, all while meeting benchmark high-speed maneuverability standards. Most importantly the vehicles are equipped with a unique internal cooling system, an additional transmission and engine cooler, and a wider grille to provide greater air flow. A necessity for vehicles that often operate between 16-24 hours a day with extended idle time. With these specifications, it is no surprise the Interceptor has replaced the Crown Victoria as the most commonly utilized patrol car in American law enforcement, and we are happy to have included them in our fleet.

END OF WATCH: Law Enforcement Funerals becoming all too familiar**Sgt. Thomas Savero**

It's something that you hope to never experience in your law enforcement career, but unfortunately it is something that will inevitably happen: Attending the funeral of an officer who lost their life in the line of duty. While I understand it is something that occurs, it is something you believe could never happen close to home, or even to someone you know. Unfortunately this has not been the case in recent years. Officers from The University of Scranton Police Department were both saddened and honored to assist and attend the funerals of Cpl. Bryon K. Dickson of the Pennsylvania State Police, and Officer John J. Wilding of the Scranton Police Department. Most recently, Inv. Kevin Rude, Sgt. Joe Laguzzi, Officer Jessica Barletta and myself made a trip to Altoona, Pennsylvania, to show our department's support for another fallen officer, Trooper Landon E. Weaver of the Pennsylvania State Police. It is very overwhelming to be part of these services and I am very proud that I, along with my colleagues, were able to show our support for a fellow first responder. As sad as they are, these viewings and funerals demonstrate the unwavering brotherhood and sisterhood between those who serve in law enforcement; as it is common for hundreds of police agencies from across the country to attend processions and pay their respects to a fallen officer. Those of us in law enforcement know firsthand the dangers of the job, and feel compelled to show our support for these officers and the many others who have sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. I know I can never say 'never', but hopefully our attendance will not be necessary at a service for a fallen officer for a long time. To all of these officers, and those who put their lives on the line on a daily basis, we say Thank You!



Sgt Savero, Ofc Barletta and Inv. Rude attending a procession in their Class A Dress Uniforms.

University Increases Video Surveillance**Dispatch Supv. Derek Fozard**

Continuing our efforts to increase campus safety, The University of Scranton recently added additional security cameras to campus, expanding our coverage to include parts of Linden Street and Drexel House. Currently, the University has over 200 cameras in the network, all of which serve as an invaluable tool to our Police department in monitoring and maintaining campus safety. The cameras, which provide live video feed to police dispatchers and officers, can be remotely controlled and allow for some cameras to "zoom" in for a close up view. The camera system also provides investigators with the ability to review some recorded footage, helping our department's goal of deterring crime and managing incidents as they occur.

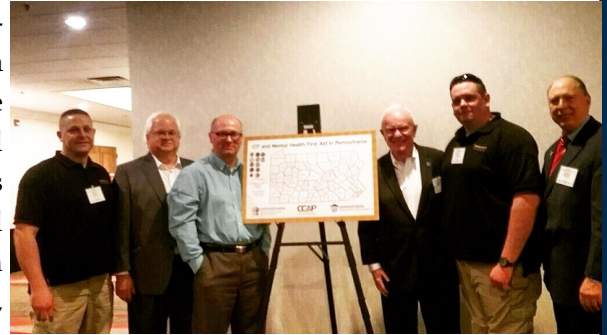


In addition to the Linden Street cameras, The University also received approval for a camera overlooking the Estate, multiple cameras to be installed in the dining facilities of Montrone and DeNaples, and 19 units to be included as part of the new South Side Sports Complex renovation. This upgraded athletic facility will host many university sanctioned events throughout the year. The addition of multiple cameras will provide 24 hour coverage of the fields. As the campus continues to grow, we here at University Police will endeavor to maintain and expand our coverage of campus so that we remain a safe and secure institution.

UPD Staff Certified in Crisis Intervention Training

Sgt. Kipp Adcock

The Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) is an innovative first-responder model of police-based crisis intervention with community, health care, and advocacy partnerships to improve responses to people in crisis. The CIT Model was first developed in Memphis and has spread throughout the country because of its proven success. The training provides law enforcement-based crisis intervention training for assisting those individuals with a mental illness, and improves the safety of patrol officers, consumers, family members, and citizens within the community.



Inv. Rude, Sgt. Adcock and Ofc. Eibach with the CIT Program Developers

CIT is a program that provides the foundation necessary to promote community and statewide solutions to assist individuals with mental illness. The CIT Model reduces both the stigma and the need for further involvement with the criminal justice system. It also provides a forum for effective problem solving regarding the interaction between the criminal justice and mental health care systems, creating the context for sustainable change. We were fortunate enough to have learned not only from the best, but the actual developers of the program: Dr. Randolph Dupont, the Clinical Psychologist and Chairman at the University of Memphis; Dr. Thomas Kirchberg, the Chief of Psychology for the Veterans Administration; and Major Sam Cochran, a retired law enforcement officer, who is nationally recognized for his work in developing the original Memphis model of CIT. Our attendance at the latest training allows Inv. Kevin Rude, Ofc. Thomas Eibach, and myself the opportunity to participate with other local stakeholders in crisis intervention such as Arc, NAMI, The office of Probation and Parole, and the Mental Health Courts in appropriately managing those individuals in crisis.

UPD's New editions

Erica Armstrong

Please join University Police in welcoming our 3 newest employees: Michael Hill, Dispatcher, Alexis Cerchione, Per Diem Dispatcher, and David Kostiak, Policy and Compliance Manager/Crime Prevention Coordinator. Michael, "Mick" a native of Haverfordwest, Wales, comes to us with over 30 years of telecommunications and technical experience. Mick also enjoys his role as coach of the University of Scranton Women's Rugby club, and has coached for the last four years. When not on duty, he is usually enjoying time with his family. Alexis is an alumna ('16) with a dual Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology from the University of Scranton, and held a position in our Student Officer Program for three years. She is also a recent graduate of the Lackawanna Police Academy and is currently in the process of becoming a sworn University Police officer. She is originally from Bridgewater, NJ, but currently resides in Blakely, PA. When she is not working, Alexis can be found caring for and adopting kittens and enjoying a quality



Dispatchers Mick Hill and Alexis Cerchione



David Kostiak, Policy and Compliance Manager

grilled cheese. David, who most recently left his position as the Legal Services Program Director at McCann School of Business, is a retired Baltimore County Police Officer. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Penn State University, and his Graduate degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College. In his free time, he enjoys snow skiing and watching his sons play competitive travel soccer.

Student Officer Program

SO Lt. Matt Vervlied

The Student Officer Program is beginning to take on a new role. More than just working shifts, our goal is to increase our presence on campus by fostering better community relations backed through new and improved training opportunities. Traditionally, Student Officers received basic program-related training during Academy Week, a weeklong training that takes place the just before the start of the Fall semester. Academy Week was designed to teach new Student Officers basic principles, introduce them to the University, and provide them with the foundational skills required for the program. Returning Student Officers either assisted with facilitating the training, or used Academy Week as an opportunity to brush-up on their knowledge. Training consisted of hour long lecture-style presentations in a classroom setting learning basic job functions and procedures passed down by word-of-mouth from senior ranking



Student Officers performing a safety escort.



Student Officers in scenario-based training.

Student Officers. However, recognizing that the program needed lesson plans and an official SOP, we created a nearly 80-page Standard Operating Procedures manual that Student Officers use, not only during Academy Week, but also as a reference throughout their tenure in the program. We have also made changes to next-year's Academy Week Training Schedule, to include presentations from members of the Pennsylvania State Police, Lackawanna County Detectives Bureau, and Commonwealth Ambulance. Additionally, Student Officers now receive training on Student Code of Conduct violations and relevant criminal laws in order to increase their knowledge-base and improve their awareness and performance in the field. Academy Week training is essential, but so is continual training throughout the semester. Student Officers participate in scenario-based training exercises twice each semester in order to identify areas for improvement and also highlight the skills and techniques that are being executed properly. Scenarios ranging from intoxicated persons and fights, to suspicious persons and domestic violence incidents, ensure that Student Officers are constantly prepared for the vast array of situations they may encounter while on shift. New Student Officers participating in scenario training claim it is extremely beneficial and helps them better prepare for what we really do. As an extension of the University Police Department, it is necessary for Student Officers to act professionally and responsibly when on and off duty. Improvements such as the creation of the SOP, Academy Week presentations, and scenario training help to reinforce their roles on campus and mold them for futures in law enforcement. Another goal we set out to accomplish this year is to better our relations with the University community. By engaging in pedestrian safety initiatives, and by participating in interdepartmental and late night events, we plan to accomplish that goal. Pedestrian safety initiatives show students and staff that we do care about their well-being and are not just here to get them in



Student Officers facilitating a Pedestrian Safety initiative in DeNaples.

trouble, as is too often the misconception. We are also in the process of planning a late night event for the fall semester, and Student Officers are excited to run the program entirely. The goal is to create a student friendly event that relates to policing and helps the community understand our role on campus. We would like to create a water sports event that would incorporate fun activities that mimic a police academy with water gun target shooting and water balloon riot training. Hopefully with the University's support we can make this an annual event that promotes positive community engagement and also illustrates the true reason we are on campus: to help!