



THE DISPATCH



The University of Scranton Police Department

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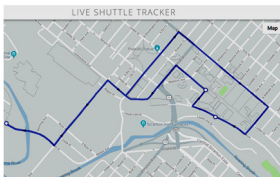
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Editor: Erica Armstrong

Did You Know?

The University Athletics' Shuttle is now equipped with a GPS tracker. Cathy Sanderson, the Coordinator of Transportation and Parking Services, had the GPS installed in Iggy 1 so that community members would be able to track the shuttle live, and in real time. Although the GPS system is currently in a demo mode, the hope is that UPD, in conjunction with IT, can integrate a link or an online app on the my.scranton portal that is accessible to all students, faculty and staff for further ease of access.

Stay Tuned!



UPD Receives 1st Re-Accreditation

By: David Kostiak

The University of Scranton Police Department has earned its first re-accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) of the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association in March of 2019. The Department's accreditation will now run through 2022. When initially evaluated in 2016, UPD was one of only six universities throughout the state whose police department earned association accreditation. Since then, only one additional university police department has been accredited through PLEAC, bringing the total number of Higher-Ed specific accredited departments to seven. All departments pursuing accreditation through PLEAC undergo an intense process that requires the assessment of policing policies, administration, law enforcement procedures, physical facilities, vehicles, and equipment. These standards of compliance provide a framework for preventing unnecessary risk, building community trust, and holding personnel accountable for delivering the highest quality of police services. Accordingly, all accreditation standards must be substantiated through 'proofs of compliance' that demonstrate our day-to-day functions meet the required standards established by the commission. Examples of proofs may include: audits, police reports, background checks for new hires, and/or training records for department members. In total University Police needed to show a total of 405 proofs of compliance in order to meet PLEACs accreditation criteria.



Becoming an accredited law enforcement agency is very difficult; however, achieving re-accreditation is even more so. Not only because the time period for assessment increases by 200% (from 1 calendar year to 3 calendar years) but also due to the fact that there is a higher expectation for excellence having achieved accreditation at a prior time. The assessment process is lengthy and typically consists of a 30 day inspection of digital proofs, followed by a required on-site visit by association representatives. Over the last 18 months I received support from the entire department to maintain accreditation, and for that reason the entire department should be very proud, as each and every member has contributed to this accomplishment.

As many of you know, UPD employs 18 sworn police officers, 3 service officers, 5 dispatchers and 2 support staff members making our department the second largest full-time police department in Lackawanna County. All campus police officers receive Act 120 and Act 235 certification, and annually receive many more than the state-required 12 hours of mandatory training and firearms qualification training. The officers have the same powers, authority, and responsibility of any officer of the Commonwealth on property owned or operated by The University of Scranton, including public streets and property adjacent to the campus. Although this in and of itself establishes a viability in the city of Scranton, PLEAC accreditation illustrates not only internally, but also externally that our department is committed to professionalism.

D.A.R.E. Program Still Making a Difference

By: Sgt. Joseph Laguzzi

The Drug Abuse Resistance Education program or (D.A.R.E.) is an educational program that seeks to prevent the use of controlled drugs, membership in gangs, and violent behavior in children and teens. I have had the pleasure of instructing the program in many schools throughout Lackawanna County since 1997 while working under a grant from the Lackawanna County Districts Attorney’s office. Unfortunately, in 2008 due to economic shortfalls, State funding for D.A.R.E was eliminated. In turn, many public school districts were forced to cut the D.A.R.E. program for lack of funding. During this time I was actively providing D.A.R.E. instruction to a few of the Catholic elementary schools under the Diocese of Scranton throughout Lackawanna County. Because of the strong commitment to the D.A.R.E program by these schools, the District Attorney’s office decided to continue to support the instruction and funding of the program for these schools, and continues to support the program to this day.



When I started my employment with the University Police Department in 2013, I approached Chief Bergmann and asked him if he would support the idea of me continuing to volunteer to instruct the D.A.R.E. program at Lasalle Academy in Jessup, Our Lady of Peace School in Clarks Green, and the Fell charter school in Simpson. Chief Bergmann informed me that he was well aware of the D.A.R.E program, had supported the program in the past, and gave me the green light to continue instructing the program through my current position as a University Officer. In order to keep the program affordable for the District Attorney’s office, I volunteer the majority of my time to instruct the program. This way, funds from the DA’s office are allocated for the purchase of classroom and graduation supplies, and

on occasion, any remaining funds can be donated to the schools in order to purchase something educational that would benefit students. Each school has a D.A.R.E. graduation at the end of the ten week program. The graduation features guest speakers such as representatives from the District Attorney’s office and local Police Chiefs. Each student at graduation receives a D.A.R.E. T-shirt, a medal, and a graduation certificate. We also include an essay contest in which awards are presented to the top three essays in each class. I also always try to include a special treat each year at graduation, with a visit from one of the Police K9 units from the District Attorney’s office. The students always look forward to seeing the K9 demonstration during graduation because it isn't often that children get up close to a police dog.

I strongly believe the D.A.R.E. Program has a positive impact with the students that I have instructed. I continue to run into former students from the program that tell me they still remember the lessons from the program, and appreciated me taking the time out to visit them. I truly appreciate working for a police department that values reaching out to the community and trying to make a difference. I hope to be able to continue instructing the D.A.R.E program for many more years to come, and feel that the students get as much out of the program as I do!

UPD Swears in New Police Officer

By Erica Armstrong

On March 15th, 2019 UPD swore in their newest officer, Mark Striefsky, an August 2018 graduate of the Lackawanna Police Academy. Although this is Mark’s first full time police position, he is not new to the field of first response. Mark has been a regular volunteer with the William Walker Hose Company (Mayfield) since 2016, and has worked as a Police Officer for both the Mayfield and Archbald boroughs since 2018. In his free time, Mark can be seen riding his quad, spending time at the range, or in the company of his friends. Mark is looking forward to serving The University of Scranton Community, so please join us in welcoming him to the department!



Pictured: Dr. Davis, Judge Gerulo, and newly sworn Ofc. Striefsky

Domestic Service: A Life-Changing Experience

By: David Kostiak

Wow, what an amazing experience I recently had! I had the privilege of being chosen to attend a University of Scranton Domestic Service Trip. On Saturday, March 9th, I arrived bright and early with my fellow chaperone to embark on a life changing adventure with nine of our University students. We piled into the rental van for a 10 hour ride to our destination, the Appalachian region of Kentucky. As expected, the students were sleeping in minutes! The drive was long, but, we sang, we laughed, and discussed our journey to pass the time.



David Kostiak pictured with students from his Service Trip

On Sunday, we reached our destination ready to make a difference. The day consisted of various meetings filled with ice breakers in order to become acquainted with like-minded peers from other universities across the nation that we would be working alongside. On Monday, the real work began. I had the privilege of assisting in the construction process of building a new house for a family that suffered numerous life-changing tragedies. Nail by nail, I thought about the joy that the house would create for the family. For this would eventually be a place for them to call home! On Wednesday, my group was pulled away from the construction site for a special project. An elderly woman suffered a devastating loss resulting from a flood a few weeks earlier. With her house inhabitable; we stripped the house to the bare studs and floor joists to prevent the growth of mold and then insulated the walls, hung new paneling, and laid a floor, all to create a home again. Previously, she had been staying with family, but as a result of our work she was able to go back home. At night, we reflected as a group of Royals as to how the day affected us. There were tears of joy and laughter shared by the group as we reflected on our experiences. I was amazed by the compassion and care our students had for the recipients of our work. At the end of the week, I did not want it to end. The bonds that I created with my fellow chaperone and the University students were life changing. I highly recommend embracing the opportunity to volunteer for a University service trip; it will forever change your life!

Student Officer Program Establishes Bike Unit

By: SO Lt. Kyle Kolcharno

Over the past few weeks, community members may have noticed Student Officers patrolling campus on bicycles wearing new high visibility yellow shirts. These Student Officers are part of the 'SO Bike Patrol Unit', a pilot program introduced at the beginning of the semester in order to increase the range of Student Officer patrols on campus. In February of this year, Police Chief Bergmann conditionally approved a proposal which detailed the benefits of a Student Officer bike patrol unit. The bike patrol unit will allow Student Officers to be more visible on campus, respond to incidents more quickly, and cover a larger area than traditional foot patrols allow for. Currently, only supervisors within the Student Officer program are authorized to ride bikes, however, we hope that the unit will be expanded in

the fall semester to include non-ranking student officers. Student Officers riding the bikes will go through a bike-specific training and will be issued a high-visibility yellow uniform shirt to make them more conspicuous while patrolling. In this way, they will be more visible to both community members and motorists, while also differentiating themselves from the traditional police bike patrol units. The bikes currently being used by Student Officers are shared with University Police Bike Patrol Officers, who can be seen patrolling during the warmer months wearing the standard blue and black bike uniform shirts. However, in the coming months, University Police hopes to acquire two new bikes specifically for the Student Officer Bike Unit so that we can increase the number of individuals on bikes during any shift. The addition of a Bike Unit to the Student Officer Program is another example of University Police continuing to improve the safety and security of the community with innovative policing and patrol methods.

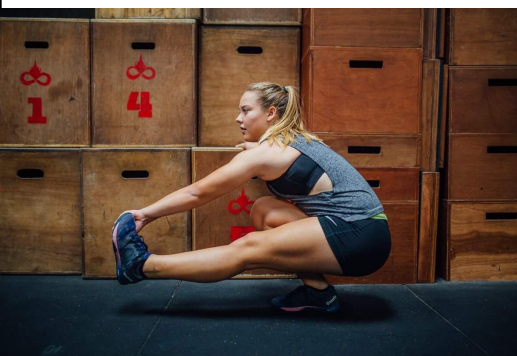


SO Sgt. Russ Sullivan pictured with new bike uniform

Student Officer Spotlight: Simone van der Lee

By: Erica Armstrong

SO Cpl. Simone van der Lee is not your average first year college student. A dual citizen of the United States and the Netherlands, Simone has packed a lot of experience into her 18 years of life. Born in California, Simone has not only lived across the U.S., but has also been afforded the opportunity to live and travel throughout Europe & Asia being that her parents are employed by international Non-Governmental Organizations. She is fluent in English, Dutch, and Spanish, and because she attended international grade schools while abroad, she truly has been able to experience life through a variety of cultural and ethnic lenses. If anything, these once-in-a-lifetime experiences have fueled her passion for people, encouraged her to take chances, and have been a driving force behind her continual pursuit of excellence. This pursuit of excellence not only transcends into her academic life as an Exercise Science major (with a guaranteed seat in the DPT program), but also in her extracurricular activities which include gymnastics, CrossFit and powerlifting. Gymnastics was her first love, and it is evidenced by the fact that she participated in the sport competitively for over 10 years. While living in Cambodia, Simone participated in competitive gymnastics with Prestige and Hills Gymnastics. She has also worked within these programs to coach younger gymnasts, something she still enjoys doing when she has the time.



In addition to gymnastics, Simone became actively involved with CrossFit when she discovered that it merged her love of competitive sports and personal fitness. In fact, she recently competed in her first powerlifting competition in March, placing first in her weight bracket while achieving her own personal best record. Simone also participates in the Reebok CrossFit games, a multi-week competition that tests the overall fitness of participants through a series of focused competitions. In addition she was involved in the CrossFit games from 2015-2018 and ranked first in Cambodia for her age group three consecutive years (2016-2018). She even ranked 72nd worldwide in 2016 for her age group, which is a feat in and of itself.

As a Student Officer, Simone has already proved to be a valuable asset to the program. She joined the program in November of 2018, and it didn't take long for her cohorts in the program, and University Police personnel alike, to recognize her potential. In fact, Simone was quickly promoted to the rank of Corporal after only being in the program for 3 months. Although she is not pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice, she was drawn to the Student Officer program because of the emphasis it places on leadership, professionalism, and critical thinking skills. The rank structure and the varying levels of responsibility also appealed to Simone, as she wanted to gain experience in a work study position that would help her build her resume and help her navigate her future career goals. She also finds it particularly rewarding that she is able to be involved in many campus activities as a result of working for the UPD. However, what she likes most is being able to help people when needed. This can be traced back to her upbringing, and the fact that both of her parents are strong advocates for children in their work around the globe. It is students like Simone who are enthusiastic, driven, and hard working, that make the Student Officer program not only successful, but a rewarding experience for all!

