Meet Interim Vice President Stephen Garcia

This newsletter aims to inform the campus about Administration and Finance projects and activities and to address concerns both within and outside the Division. As partners in learning, Administration and Finance continues to serve the Cal State Fullerton community and to help our University reach its ultimate potential.

Mr. Garcia is former vice president for administration and business affairs at CSU Sacramento. Following his retirement at the end of 2010, he served as interim vice president for administration and finance at the California Maritime Academy. He has also held senior administration and finance positions at UC Irvine, Cal State San Marcos, and a number of school districts and community colleges. Mr. Garcia earned a bachelor’s degree from Northern Arizona University and an MBA from National University, and has been active in many professional organizations. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Garcia to campus.

Department Spotlight: UNIVERSITY POLICE

Cal State Fullerton’s University Police is a nationally accredited police agency responsible for safety protection, prevention and education at both the Fullerton and Irvine campuses.

University Police officers are all sworn officers who have been trained in first aid and CPR and who have full police powers throughout the state. They enforce all regulations on campus and actively patrol a one mile radius immediately around Cal State Fullerton. They conduct foot, vehicular and bicycle patrols on campus and in the residence community 24 hours a day. University Police officers also work very closely with the Fullerton Police Department and other law enforcement agencies to assist them with incidents involving campus community members that may occur off campus.

In 2012, University Police underwent many changes, including Cal State Fullerton welcoming Dennis DeMaio as our new Chief of Police in January following Chief Judi King’s retirement.

One of University Police’s goals for 2013 is to establish a satellite location for University Police officers in student housing in partnership with the student housing office. A permanent location in the student dorms is not only a crime prevention measure, but it will also enable University Police to better serve the student population by providing more safety training for resident advisors and housing residents, creating a safe environment for students to ask questions, and helping to bridge the gap in the student/officer relationship.

With its core values of protection, education and service, University Police will continue to serve as an active partner in providing a safe learning environment for CSUF.
University Police Begins Campus Motorcycle Patrol Program

Faculty, staff and students are used to congestion on campus, but few people realize how that congestion can impact emergency response times. How can patrol cars quickly and easily cross a crowded campus? How can patrol cars respond to a call in a crowded parking structure during peak traffic?

One of the solutions is a police motorcycle. In mid-January, University Police will begin utilizing a motorcycle in their campus patrols.

According to Captain John Brookie, a 2008 survey revealed that there was a dramatic difference in response times between police motorcycles and patrol cars when traffic is impacted on campus; on average, motorcycles responded to emergency calls three minutes faster than cars. CSUF’s motorcycle will therefore be essential in helping University Police serve CSUF.

With the goal of enhancing safety on campus through education and enforcement, the motorcycle will be used primarily for emergency response, traffic enforcement and crime prevention.

One of the most beneficial aspects of the motorcycle is that it will increase police visibility on campus. A motorcycle can easily travel where patrol cars cannot, and the motorcycle’s presence will also deter individuals from defying the law and in turn reduce the number of accidents and injuries on campus. The motorcycle will also improve overall traffic flow, as it will allow University Police to respond to accidents and control traffic without impeding said traffic with their patrol cars.

In light of recent financial issues, University Police was determined to create the program at the lowest cost without sacrificing quality or safety. University Police purchased the motorcycle, a 2005 Kawasaki K1000, from San Diego State (who had originally purchased the bike from another agency) for a discounted $750. The cost of CSUF’s program, which includes training costs and safety gear, is therefore estimated at one-fourth the cost of purchasing a new motorcycle.

The motorcycle will be driven by Corporal Jesse Blanpied, who graduated from the motor academy required by Police Officers Standard Training (POST). Corporal Blanpied also trained with the La Habra Police Department motorcycle team for several weeks, where he learned about motorcycle culture and defensive driving.

With this new addition to CSUF’s fleet, University Police’s motorcycle will prove an outstanding tool for maintaining campus safety.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS HELP UNIVERSITY POLICE KEEP CSUF SAFE

You see them all over campus in their gray t-shirts, escorting students and helping control traffic, but who exactly are these individuals? These student assistants are community service officers (CSOs), and they play a vital role in keeping CSUF safe.

The CSOs act as the eyes and ears of the University Police Department, and they ensure the safety of the CSUF community by providing dedicated service while establishing strong working relationships between staff, faculty, students and visitors.

Some of the duties CSOs perform for the campus include locking and unlocking University facilities and classrooms, patrolling the campus, serving as safety escorts, and providing site security at events. Every CSO is trained in radio communication and First Aid/CPR.

To qualify for the program, students must maintain a 2.0 G.P.A., have a valid California driver’s license, pass an oral interview and background check, and have strong communication and analytical skills. Students do not need to be criminal justice or other law-related majors to participate in the program; all majors are welcome to apply.

The CSO program began in March of 1989 with an estimated 15 student employees, and hundreds of CSUF students have been a part of the program since its inception. There are currently 23 student assistants in the program.

Besides supporting University Police, the CSO program is also a strong professional development program for its participants. The program is a great learning opportunity for students who are interested in law enforcement to better understand how police departments operate, and it also helps students gain confidence for future careers. Many CSOs have gone on to become police officers and police dispatchers at the local, state and federal level after completing the program, while others have moved on to careers in a wide range of professional fields, including accounting, teaching and the arts.

Corporal Jose Rosales currently oversees the CSO program, and he is one of five CSO graduates who currently work for University Police. Corporal Rosales started as a CSO in 2004 as an undergraduate studying criminal justice, and he credits the program with helping him to gain perspective in law enforcement and to begin his career as a police officer.

The next time you see a community service officer in their gray t-shirt, know that they are here to help. For more information on the CSO program, please visit http://police.fullerton.edu/communityservice/aboutus.asp.
University Police has been accredited since 2001, and it has been named a Flagship Agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) three times. The Flagship Agency Program is a nationwide program that acknowledges the achievement and expertise of the most successful CALEA agencies based on the agencies’ past awards, current assessment and overall professional standing in the public safety community.

There are currently 27 sworn officers, 15 support staff, and 25 student field community service officers working for University Police. Three officers serve as plain clothes investigators, and CSUF police officers are also members of the North County SWAT team.

Despite having one of the lowest student-to-officer ratios in the CSU system (for the more than 37,000 students currently at CSUF, there are .70 officers per 1,000 students; the average CSU ratio is 1.25 officers per 1,000 students), Cal State Fullerton has the lowest crime rates compared to CSU campuses of comparable size. Crime rates are also on the decline; for example, 2011 saw an 11 percent decrease in property crime and a 37 percent reduction in identity theft crime compared to 2010.

University Police has recently established a Gang Intelligence Unit. The mission of the Gang Intelligence Unit is to take the lead in processing and disseminating gang-related intelligence and assist with the investigation of gang-related crimes in an effort to fight against gang activity.

According to the University Police Department’s annual report, there were 2,245 foot patrols, 125 bike patrols, 14,276 area checks and 1,056 patrol checks conducted by patrol officers and community service officers in 2011.

CSUF officers arrested 124 DUI suspects in 2012, with two officers receiving recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (M.A.D.D.) with the Deuce Award for 37 and 29 drunk driver arrests, respectively. An ongoing DUI awareness program is maintained by the Crime Prevention Officers with special emphasis on safety presentations as well as participation in the University’s Dry Challenge and Alcohol Awareness Week.

Keeping Cal State Fullerton faculty, students, staff and guests safe is a huge responsibility, one that University Police successfully manages each and every day. How do they do it? By providing proactive policing patrol and crime prevention services and enforcement for the campus community.

One of University Police’s primary missions is crime prevention through enforcement. This includes constant patrol (whether by car, on bike or on foot) and following through on all reports and investigations. The department also operates the campus’ dispatch communication system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, handling all 911 calls for the Fullerton and Irvine campuses and managing the Emergency Blue Poles phone system. University Police also oversees and trains the campus in emergency preparedness, including organizing campus-wide safety drills.

Another major goal of University Police is crime prevention through education. University Police provides safety training and presentations for numerous groups on campus. The department also produces various pamphlets and other informational materials to educate faculty, staff and students on safety issues, such as preventing auto theft and sexual assaults.

In addition to campus safety and crime prevention and education, University Police provides a number of other services to the CSUF community. These services include overseeing employment background and record checks, working with the City of Placentia to manage vehicle impounding and towing, providing fee-based fingerprinting services for the local community, managing university alarm systems and key issuances, offering a ride-along program, controlling traffic, and tracking lost and found items.

The list of services University Police provides Cal State Fullerton is a long one, and it is these services that make University Police such a vital partner on campus.

Emergencies can happen at any moment, so it is important to be prepared. No one understands this better than University Police. The department manages a number of different services and activities to prepare Cal State Fullerton for and assist during emergency situations.

Cal State Fullerton Emergency Preparedness is overseen by Sue Fisher, University Police’s Emergency Management Coordinator, who creates the framework to help the university respond to any possible situation and threat - fire, earthquake, active shooter, to name a few. One of the ways this preparation is accomplished is through various exercises, including “active shooter” and “shelter-in-place” drills. Fisher also manages the Emergency Operations Plan, arranges emergency training for the campus and provides safety information to the University community. Fisher explained that the goal of emergency preparedness is to give individuals “the tools and skills they need to make the right response that will potentially save lives.”

When it comes to emergency preparedness, one of University Police’s most vital tools is the campus’ emergency notification system. CSUF uses Blackboard Connect, which pulls names, emails and phone numbers from the campus data bases to send important alerts to faculty, staff and students. The importance and benefits of this system was demonstrated during the shelter-in-place event that took place on campus on December 12, 2012, when it quickly and constantly updated the campus throughout the incident.

Find out more about emergency preparedness at http://prepare.fullerton.edu/.
It is important for individuals to be able to defend themselves if and when they are faced with a threatening situation, and one of the ways in which University Police helps students protect themselves is by providing Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) classes to the community.

R.A.D. is an internationally recognized program that provides life-saving information and realistic self-defense training to individuals (primarily women) looking to defend themselves against various types of assault.

Since the program began in 1989, more than 11,000 R.A.D. instructors at colleges, universities and law enforcement agencies worldwide have trained more than 900,000 women in self-defense and martial arts tactics. R.A.D. "empowers people to be safe, be aware, [and] build confidence," said Captain John Brockie. "It can really change a person’s life.”

Cal State Fullerton’s program, which is taught once per semester, is designed to empower female students mentally and physically against potential assaults.

The 12-hour program is split into three classes, which include bookwork and discussions on body language, awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance as well as hands-on defense training. Students also have the option of participating in simulated assault scenarios to practice their newly learned martial arts techniques against R.A.D. trained police officers in padded suits.

According to Corporal Iris Cortes, who organizes and teaches R.A.D. courses at both the Fullerton and Irvine campuses, these combined methods provide women with the knowledge to evaluate potentially dangerous situations so they can make educated decisions about resistance. “It’s not just about strength, but also about having the tools to break and run,” said Cortes. “Education reduces your chances of becoming a victim.”

CSUF’s R.A.D. program costs $25 and is organized in collaboration with Titan Recreation, with the next course planned for March 2013. R.A.D. is open to the entire community, not just CSUF individuals, and women 14 years old or older are welcome to participate (women under 18 must have parental permission.) To learn more about CSUF’s R.A.D. program and upcoming dates, please visit http://police.fullerton.edu/RAD/. For a preview of the R.A.D. class, watch the course video at http://police.fullerton.edu/rad/video.asp.