

4-2019

## Cardinal Safety Newsletter - April 2019

Otterbein University

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### Recommended Citation

Otterbein University, "Cardinal Safety Newsletter - April 2019" (2019). *Otterbein Police Department*. 13.  
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APRIL, 2019

*POLICE MOTTO:  
SERVICE FIRST*



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@OtterbeinPD



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# Cardinal Safety Newsletter

## Otterbein University Police Department

### Rideshare Safety

Samantha Josephson, a 21-year old University of South Carolina senior, went out with a group of friends late Thursday, March 28th. After being separated from them, she decided to call an Uber around 2 a.m. early Friday morning. Shortly after her call, surveillance video showed Samantha climbing into the back seat of a Chevrolet Impala. Approximately 14 hours later, turkey hunters found her body in a field 90 miles from Columbia, South Carolina.

Samantha was a student at The University of South Carolina majoring in political science. She would have graduated in June and planned to attend Drexel University School of Law.

A suspect, Nathaniel D. Rowland, is in custody facing charges of kidnapping and murder. Investigators believe Samantha thought Rowland's car was her Uber ride.

In a letter sent to the University of South Carolina students, President Harris Pastides said, "A tragedy like this shakes us to our very core but we must also consider what we can learn from it. I believe there is a lesson that we must learn that will honor Samantha's life, and keep us all safer."

"In Samantha's memory, I ask you to embrace a new pledge...that you will NEVER use a ride share service without doing the following:

- **Ensure the license plate, make, model and color of the vehicle match what's in your app and the driver matches the photo and name in the app; AND**
- **Ask the driver "WHAT'S MY NAME?" If s/he doesn't say your name, DO NOT get into the vehicle."**

We ask that you not only follow the above steps, but take a few additional steps to help ensure your safety:

- **Take a photo of the license plate and car, after you've confirmed that the information matches your app.**
- **Never get in a car with a driver who claims to be with Uber or Lyft and offers a ride.**
- **Ride in the backseat. Before the vehicle moves, make sure that the rear door of the vehicle can be opened. "Investigators also said the child safety locks in the Impala were activated, which would make it difficult for anyone to open the back doors from the inside." (Vera, 2019)**
- **Share your trip details with a friend. While en route, tap "Share status" in the app to share your driver's name, photo, license plate, and location with a friend or family member. They can track your trip and see your ETA without downloading the Uber app.**
- **Always follow your intuition, trusting your instincts. If you ever feel you're in an emergency, call 911 immediately.**

## Heading Back Home? Tips for Moving Out

It's hard to believe, but it's time to pack up your clothes, bean bag chairs and storage bins into the family SUV and head home for the summer. For some, it might be nice to be rid of lofts, bunk beds and shared bathroom space with other people. For others, summer means full-time jobs, babysitting siblings, and the return of the dreaded 'house rules' - such as making your bed, doing chores and the return of a "curfew." However you look at it, it's good-bye Otterbein until August. To help make the summer transition a little easier, here are a few tips to help you move out of your residence hall:



- Start now, don't wait until the last minute.
- Look through junk drawers, throw away, give away, and/or recycle any items that you don't use or won't use.
- Pack up your belongings before finals. This minimizes stress during the last week of school.
- Sell/return your textbooks.
- Empty the refrigerator *BEFORE* move-out day.
- Consider storing items you won't use over the summer. Research storage options in the area by using one of the following sites:
  - ⇒ [www.sparefoot.com](http://www.sparefoot.com)
  - ⇒ [www.usselfstorage.com](http://www.usselfstorage.com)
  - ⇒ [www.collegeboxes.com](http://www.collegeboxes.com)
- Assess your room for damage. Do your best to fix what you can to avoid unnecessary damage charges.
- Plan your move-out assistance. Try to refrain from inviting the **WHOLE** family to come and pick you up on move out day.

### CONGRATULATIONS Class Of 2019



### Upcoming Training Classes

The Otterbein Police Department offers educational programs designed to improve and enhance your knowledge of crime and personal safety. Please join us for any of the following courses:

Self-Defense	4/9	1:00-2:00pm	Rike Fitness Room
Alcohol Awareness	4/12	7:00-8:00pm	Towers 112
VAWA	4/16	1:00-2:00pm	Towers 112
Active Shooter	4/24	2:00-3:00pm	Roush 114

If there is something you'd like to learn about but don't see, let us know. We will work to provide customized programs, as needed.