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Cardinal Safety Newsletter April 2022

Otterbein Police Department

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APRIL, 2022

**POLICE MOTTO:
"SERVICE FIRST"**

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.**

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UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.**



TIPS FOR MOVE-OUT DAY!

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 goodbye 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.
- 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 2022!



The Commencement ceremonies during Otterbein's 175th year will take place on **Sunday, May 1, 2022** at Otterbein's Memorial Stadium.

OTTERBEIN HOMECOMING 2022

It's a *Time to Celebrate* at Otterbein!

Otterbein was founded 175 years ago, and Homecoming & Family Weekend will be one for the history books. Check back for details in early 2022. Exciting things will happen on campus, and you won't want to miss it.

