SUBJECT: Students and Officers Recognized During UFPD Campus Advisory Meeting

CR# N/A
DATE OF INCIDENT: N/A
DATE OF RELEASE: Friday, September 23, 2011

NARRATIVE:
For acting quickly to help save the life of a University of Florida engineering professor in full cardiac arrest, two students and three police officers were recognized Friday by UF Police Chief Linda Stump during a meeting of the UFPD Campus Advisory Committee.

On Aug. 31, UF students David Wasserman and Lauren Mackie stopped what they were doing to begin giving immediate Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to Dr. Stephen Pearton, who had collapsed in the food court area of the J. Wayne Reitz Union. Minutes later, UFPD Officers Tim Peck, Daymon Kizzar and Ken Motes arrived and assisted in performing CPR and used their department-issued Automated External Defibrillator (AED). These acts kept Pearton alive until he was able to receive critical care by the medical staff at Shands Hospital Emergency Room.

Pearton is married to Cammy Abernathy, Dean of the College of Engineering. Abernathy, who could not attend Friday’s meeting, expressed her gratitude in a letter to the lifesavers.

“I hope you can all take pride and comfort in my husband’s recovery as his restored health is directly due to your dedication,” Abernathy wrote. “Thanks to you, our 12-year-old son still has his father. I can never thank you enough.”

Stump awarded each honoree with a Police Challenge Coin, a medallion given for meritorious service.

The University of Florida Police Department maintains AEDs in all emergency response vehicles. Each officer is trained in the use of the AED every two years in conjunction with their individual CPR recertification. Dr. Pearton is continuing in his positive recovery from this incident.

For questions regarding information contained in this release, please contact Major Brad Barber at (352) 273-3309, or after hours at 392-1111 (#UFPD (#8373). I can also be reached via e-mail at wbarber@ufl.edu, or see the UFPD webpage at http://www.police.ufl.edu/

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