For many of us the online world is still a new Chamber of Commerce. Information security officer, to share some of the cyber topics. Since October is National Cyber Security Month, we asked George Viejas, Chapman’s experts who can answer questions and offer advice on a variety of ways that the cyber attackers can steal from you. Phishers use links in email to make you go to fake websites where they can steal your login credentials or infect your system with malware. Do not open or download strange attachments, even if they come from known senders.

Build your online ‘street smarts’ to stay safe online

Chapman University has many experts who can answer questions and offer advice on a variety of topics. National Cyber Security Month, we asked George Viejas, Chapman’s information security officer, to share some of the cyber safety tips he presented in a recent talk to the Orange Chamber of Commerce.

For many of us the online world is still a new and rapidly changing frontier. How do you stay safe online and protect the identity and financial elements of a strong password. 

• You do like to be updated on the latest news.
• Make sure you have updated antivirus and security patches installed on all your home computers and enable security patches to be installed on your systems.

Don’t get caught by online ‘phishers’

Phishing is a top attack vector used to steal your identity and financial information. Phishers use links in email to make you go to fake websites where they can steal your login credentials or infect your system with malware.

Use the hover over technique — place your mouse over the email link — which will reveal the real website that the link is taking you to. It will often be completely different from the email link. Check your mobile browser for the equivalent functionality on your mobile device.

Simon Scholars program grows

Four juniors from Orange High School are the newest Simon STEM Scholars. The Simon STEM Scholarship Program is a unique opportunity made possible through a collaboration with The Simon Foundation, Orange High School and Chapman University. The program allows selected students from Orange High who major in a STEM discipline — science, technology, engineering or math — to receive a full scholarship to Chapman University.

This year’s cohort includes Gavin McCullough, Chelsey Cortes, An Ngo and Fabian Valdez. They join the inaugural Simon STEM Scholars, now seniors, Angel Diaz, Nancy Gomez, Michael Juarez, Gage Kizza and Atmary Martinez. All were honored together at an awards banquet on Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Hilton Orange County in Costa Mesa, which was hosted by the Simon Family Foundation.

The program is a six-year process that begins during a student’s junior year at Orange High School and continues through four years at Chapman University. While still in high school, the selected students receive a computer, academic support and college level research experience. The common-sense street smarts. Below are some ways to transfer your street smarts to an online awareness so that you build a sixth sense to naturally know what doesn’t smell right.

• You wouldn’t follow a stranger down a dark alley and hand over your credit cards.

Learn to recognize and identify phish (pronounced “fish”) email that lure you to click on links that take you to fraudulent and fake websites that trick you into handing over your identity.

• You check your locks and doors at night before going to bed.

Make it a habit to verify that your online accounts are all OK by frequently logging into your banking, credit card account and verifying there are not any fraudulent charges. I recommend weekly, but at least monthly.

• You try to get the best and secure alarm systems and locks for your home.

Do the same online. Passwords are your online equivalent of strong locks on your door. Make sure you have strong passwords and use two factor authentication wherever possible. Consider using a passphrase which is a long easy-to-remember sentence that has all the components of a strong password.

Did You Know?

Chapman University’s Physician Assistant (PA) program, located at the Rinker Health Science Campus in Irvine, has been awarded provisional accreditation. This allows the university to enroll its first PA students, which is planned for January 2017. The University’s programs in Physical Therapy, Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well as the School of Pharmacy, are also housed at the Rinker Campus.

Need to report a concern?

• Please contact Chapman University at (714) 997-6763 or email neighbors@chapman.edu
• To report a disturbance that needs urgent attention, please call City of Orange PD dispatch at (714) 744-7444.

60% of small businesses will close within six months of a cyberattack

Source: National Cyber Security Alliance

Create a strong password.

A strong password should be a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. It should be at least 8 characters long and not contain any personal information.

Build strong passwords and use two factor authentication wherever possible.

Two factor authentication adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. It typically involves something you know (like a password) and something you have (like a smartphone).

Keep your computer and mobile devices up to date.

Installing security updates and patches helps protect your devices from vulnerabilities that cyber attackers may exploit.

Secure your online transactions.

For online purchases, look for the security badge (like the padlock) in the URL bar to ensure you’re on a secure website. Be cautious of strange links and requests for personal information.

Understand your online presence.

Your online footprint includes everything you do online, from your social media profiles to your online banking statements. Be mindful of what you share and to whom.

Secure your online banking.

Use strong passwords for your online banking accounts and enable two factor authentication. Avoid using the same password for multiple accounts.

Secure your email accounts.

Email is a common target for cyber attackers. Keep your email accounts secure by using a strong password and enabling two factor authentication.
There are many terrific Chapman University events and neighbors are always welcome. Here are just a few. Find more at the University’s online events calendar, www.chapman.edu/events. Advance tickets for performing arts events may be purchased online at www.chapman.edu/tickets.

Treats in the Streets
Autumn Festival
Thursday, Oct. 27, 4 to 7 p.m.
The City of Orange festival starts with trick-or-treating through downtown from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Welcome ceremony and costume parade begins at 5:30 p.m. in The Plaza. Non-profit food booths available until 7 p.m. For more information, please call (714) 744-7278.

Get Square with the Rebs
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 5 to 7 p.m.
Learn about the rediscovered Civil War diary kept by Charles M. Jenkins, the only Los Angeles resident to see combat for the Union Army. A panel of historians and authors will discuss this remarkable document forgotten and left in storage for more than 60 years. Free admission and light refreshments. Center for American War Letters Archives, Leather Libraries, lower level. For more information, please email dcooper@chapman.edu.

Big Band and Jazz Combo
Tuesday, Nov. 29, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Enjoy an evening of great swing music and jazz performed by this award-winning student ensemble directed by Professor Albert Alva. Memorial Hall. General admission $15; $10 senior citizens, alumni and students, chapman.edu/tickets.

YOU’RE INVITED!
Save these dates and join the fun this fall.

A neighborly visit with ... SGA President Annabell Liao

Chapman University students are increasingly joining in several neighborhood relations projects, many of which are being led by Annabell Liao ’17, president of the Student Government Association. We recently caught up with the creative producing major from Chino Hills for a get-acquainted chat about these new efforts.

Tell us a bit about your student life.
Last spring, I produced a thesis film called Golden Boy about the tenuous relationship between two brothers when only one is offered a spot on the football team at their dream college. One of my favorite ice cream flavors is cookies and cream!

One of your first projects was a neighborhood task force. Why was that a priority?
The Student Neighbor Relations Committee, a sub-committee for Student Government Association’s Student Outreach Committee, is intended to inform student leaders of community issues and outreach opportunities as well as brainstorm and develop student-driven solutions that students are comfortable backing.

What kind of programs or activities do you hope to see develop?
We’re looking into organizing a community mixer, PSAs, and community service events in addition to Chapman Greek life’s weekly clean ups. We look forward to providing updates once details are solidified.

Why are neighborhood relations important to students?
Learning to live respectfully in a community is just part of being responsible member of society. Our behavior as Chapman students also affects how people perceive the Chapman community as a whole. Maintaining good relations benefits the University’s reputation, which is a plus for us now and as future alumni.

What is your favorite part of leading these efforts?
I enjoy connecting with people and swapping stories. It’s important to hear people out and consider different perspectives. I work on these efforts on behalf of the Chapman student body because this has been identified as one of their concerns, but to me, it usually comes down to recognizing and affirming each other’s humanity.

Annabell Liao ’17, this school year’s president of the Student Government Association.

More inside!