

The University of
Texas at San
Antonio

POLICE
DEPARTMENT

' Runner Beat

Protecting Your Future... Today

A Campus Safety Newsletter from the University Police Department



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www.utsa.edu/utsapd

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Am I Safe on Campus? Consider These Tips!

The UTSA campus is a safe place; however, this does not mean that we are risk free. Criminal activity can find its way onto our campus as it can in those communities which surround us. Working together, we can ensure that existing risks are reduced if not eliminated. Here are some ways you can help keep our campus safe:

- Lock your residence hall room door & windows. Even though you "know everyone on your floor," you can't control guests and visitors strolling the hallways. Same goes for off campus residences. You never know who might make their way into your neighborhood.

- Walk with a buddy late at night or in potentially dangerous situations. Whenever possible, use the UTSA Police Safety Escort system to help you get to your destination safely. Call 458-4242

- Be smart about your use of alcohol and other drugs. Being under the

influence makes it difficult for you to think clearly.

- Get to know your UTSA Police Officers. Then, you won't be so hesitant to call for help.

- Be careful about the information you choose to share online. Whether it's in an away message or on a social networking site, more people have access to your profiles than you think.

- Treat the campus grounds with respect. Vandalizing and damaging directional signs, fire extinguishers and other safety equipment costs the college valuable funds and efforts that could be directed to other areas.

- Follow campus policies – they're in place for your safety.

- Report suspicious behavior to the university police department, even if it's "just a hunch." Your tip may be one of many being received about an individual. Every little bit of infor-



UTSA-PD wants you to be informed about campus safety.
Photo: UTSA Communications

mation about a potential threat is critical.

- Keep your vehicle locked and store valuables out of site. Be cautious and aware when approaching your car late at night.

- Most magazine subscriptions "salespersons" who come to your residence are trying to scam you out of money. If you really want a magazine, order from the magazine of your choice.

A safer campus is a much more enjoyable campus. By following these tips and keeping safe, you can have a more pleasant learning environment. *Reference: Runner Beat 9/2007*

Traffic Safety Important at Start of Fall Semester

With the start of the new academic year, there has been an increase of vehicle and pedestrian traffic in and around campus. The UTSA Police Department wants to ensure the well being of all members of the university community when it comes to traffic safety. Here are a few tips that may reduce the risk of becoming involved in a traffic accident:

Give the Right of Way: Most traffic accidents on and near campus involve one car failing to yield the right of way to another car by selecting too short a gap in traffic when entering a busy street. Avoid accidents by waiting for a sufficient gap in traffic before entering.

Unsafe Speeds: Drivers who follow vehicles too closely cause rear-end collisions. The speed limit on UTSA campus roads is 20 mph and in the parking lots the speed limit is 10

mph.

Traffic Control: UTSA police officers routinely direct traffic on campus streets that become congested as students arrive on or depart campus. Heeding instructions from the uniformed police officers directing traffic helps to ensure the safety of motorists and pedestrians as well as shorten the time to arrive on or leave campus.

Emergency Vehicles: The UTSA Police Department reminds you that Texas law requires drivers of every vehicle to immediately move as close as possible and parallel to the nearest edge of the road, clear of any intersection, and stop whenever an emergency vehicle with warning lights and siren operating is approaching. The driver shall remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed and no other emer-

gency equipment is in sight.

Pedestrians: UTSA parking regulations state that every pedestrian has the right-of-way at marked crosswalks, in intersections, and on sidewalks extending across a service drive, building entrance, or driveway. Texas Law states that a pedestrian may not suddenly proceed into the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.

Operating a motor vehicle on campus and in the surrounding area of UTSA is a unique and challenging experience. Operators need to develop safe driving habits. We encourage every member of our community to drive safely, giving special attention to the speed limits, seat belt laws and most importantly their surroundings. *References: Runner Beat Sept 07 & Sept 08*



Cpl. Skipper with his wife at his recent retirement recognition

WELCOME

All New Employees!

Telecommunicators:
Lynn Nevils, Connie Kimbrough & April Herrera

Cadet attending 88th Academy:
Jerry Chessher

Guard:
Matthew Schorn & Christopher Charo

Admin Assistant:
Toni De Gain

Welcome to UTSA Police Department!



Congratulations to Lt. Padula for attending the FBI National Academy

Officer & Employee of the Semester

On Friday, July 24, 2009, the UTSA Police Department recognized Corporal Harold Skipper as the Officer of the Semester and Rebecca Gomez as the Civilian Employee of the Semester in a ceremony that was held in the University Center. Awards were presented by Acting Chief Dan Pena while various members of the Police Department and the UTSA community were in attendance. The police department also used this opportunity to celebrate Corporal Skipper's retirement.

Corporal Skipper faithfully served the UTSA Police Department from December 17, 1993 until July 2009. As one of the departments Field Training Officers he shaped many of our young officers into the professionals they are today. Corporal Skipper takes with him decades of law enforcement experience obtained from his time served honorably with the United States Air Force and the UTSA Police Department.

When called upon, Corporal Skipper was always there. From handling the department's vehicle fleet to working special events Corporal Skipper could always be depended upon to handle any situation. Corporal Skipper will be sadly missed by all of the men and women of the UTSA Police Department and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Rebecca Gomez was recognized as the Civilian Employee of the Semester for her outstanding performance and multi-task abilities within many of the police departments divisions. Rebecca coordinated and arranged the Uniformed Crime Report course recently held at the police department. She also assists when called upon to conduct criminal background checks on applicants applying for positions throughout the UTSA community. In addition, Rebecca enters data into the police department data base, processes police reports,

citations and many other various documents.

Rebecca showed spirit by helping decorate the police department for Homecoming Week. Thanks to her creative design abilities and a few other employees the police department received third place in the competition. Rebecca works well with other agencies such as the Municipal Courts and various other university departments. The police department is a much better place for having her as a member of our team. Congratulations Rebecca and thank you for a job well done.

Reference: Article by Capt. Dan Kiley



Acting Chief Pena congratulates Rebecca Gomez

Employee Kudos: Officers Smith, Odom, Criswell and Guard Pearson save a life.

On June 29, 2009, Officers Darwin Odom, Jacob Criswell, Shawn Smith and Guard Henry Pearson were dispatched to the University Oaks Apartments for a report of an unconscious victim. It was determined the victim was not breathing or had a pulse and Ofc. Odom and Smith began CPR. EMS arrived shortly and took the patient to a local hospital. A departing EMS Paramedic remarked that "you guys did an awesome job with CPR." The victim eventually gained consciousness and was discharged from the hospital after a short stay. Thanks to Officers Smith, Odom, Criswell and Guard Pearson for saving his life. **Way to go!**

Lt. Padula to Attend FBI National Academy

Lieutenant Stephanie Padula has been accepted to attend the 238th Session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. She will be attending July through September of this year. The FBI National Academy is a 10 week professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement leaders that serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge and cooperation worldwide.

Lt. Padula has been with the UTSA

Police Department for over 16 years. She began as a Lost and Found Clerk and then attended the 60th Basic Training Academy in 1995 to become a police officer. She graduated from UTSA with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice in 2000. She holds a Master Peace Officer license and completed the College Business Management Institute in 2008.

She was promoted to Lieutenant in 2006 and is now responsible for the Administrative Operations of the Department, including, budget preparation, internal affairs, pur-

chasing, criminal background checks and other administrative functions. Previous positions held include Patrol Sergeant, Training Sergeant and Criminal Investigations Division Supervisor.

Lt. Padula is married and has two children. She enjoys spending time with her family camping in the beautiful State Parks of Texas! Her husband, David, is the Deputy County Fire Marshal for Comal County. Stephanie will be the Fourth UTSA police officer to attend the FBI National Academy. Way to go Stephanie!! Reference: VPBA Newsletter

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDE



Cover shot of Response Guides posted on campus. (Photo from UTSA Today)

“Safety Highlights” by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

UTSA Police Department staffers have begun placing the new UTSA Community Emergency Response Guide across the Tri-Campus community and plan to complete the project by the start of the fall semester. The brochure was developed as an informational tool for students, faculty, staff and visitors in case of an emergency.

The guide deals with protective actions that should be taken during emergencies such as active

shooter, suspicious mail, tornadoes, hazardous materials and medical emergencies and also provides emergency contact phone numbers.

The emergency response guide project was coordinated by the UTSA Office of Business Continuity and Emergency Management with the help of a collaborative team of staff members from the UTSA Police Department; Office of Environmental Health, Safety and

Risk Management; Student Health and Counseling Services; Office of Facilities; and campus floor captain safety liaisons. Production of the guide was financed through a grant awarded by the University of Texas System.

Read the UTSA Community Emergency Response Guide at the UTSA Police Department Web site at www.utsa.edu/utsapd.

Crime Prevention Tip

Prevent identity theft by shredding discarded documents, including preapproved credit card applications and bank statements.

Secure It. Keep It. Signs To Be Posted On Campus

UTSA-PD's successful "Secure It. Keep It." theft awareness campaign has been implemented for over a year. Soon, we will display this effective message throughout campus all year long that will also include our telephone numbers. These signs (pictured at right) will be posted throughout the parking lots of all three of UTSA campuses this fall. The familiar reminder of "Secure It. Keep It." will be followed by our non-emergency phone number as well as our emergency phone number. Many of our customers have remarked they did not know our phone numbers when they needed to contact UTSA-PD. These permanent signs will help you remember our contact information.



These signs will soon be posted on campus.

“Detective Time” by Sgt. Thomas Calucci (Supervisor, Criminal Investigations)

It has been a busy summer here in the Investigations Section of the UTSA-PD. I know there are some out there that think that a university campus slows down during the summertime. Not so. In addition to all of the summer sessions, we also have numerous conferences held at the university during summer. This presents a unique challenge since most of the attendees are from out of town. If one of them has filed a report with us, the follow up is difficult due to the different geographical locations. But don't get me wrong, we put 110% into all of our investigations, whether it is a student, employee or visitor making the report.

So let's say that someone who is a visitor to our campus reports that they have become a victim of a crime. As you know, we are pretty good about solving most crimes pretty quickly, but some require additional time. The visitor may have already returned home before we can solve their case. As with any criminal case, we need certain documentation to be completed before it can be filed. One of the things we do to make it easier for our customers is to arrange for them to visit their local University of Texas component campus police departments to complete a written statement, prosecution affidavits, etc. The local detectives will then

mail us the paperwork so we have the original for the case. This has worked out for us very well in the past.

So don't be alarmed if you report a crime to us and then have to leave right away. We, the police, are one of the largest organizations in the world. There is always some officer or detective, somewhere, that is willing to help put the bad guys away... wherever they may be.

Please keep yourself safe throughout the remainder of the summer, and we'll see you when the new semester starts.

Welcome!



David De Los Santos joins the University Police Department as the Director of Security Systems. He will be responsible for the overall planning, development and implementation of security policies and procedures associated with security administration to include information technology, security cameras and access services. David served in the United States Air Force for twenty six years as a Law Enforcement specialist. David has a Bachelor's Degree in Occupational Education with a major in Justice Administration from Wayland Baptist University.



Recognize the elements of Phishing. (Photo from UTSA Today)

Acting Chief Pena says:

Welcome to new our officers Shawn Smith and Jonathan Harris who attended the UT System Police Academy, 87th Class. Ofc. Smith remarked "I think some good points would be the constant pressure academically pressed upon the cadets and how versatile and knowledgeable cops are supposed to be."

Welcome Officers Smith and Harris!



**Acting Chief of Police
Dan Pena**

Be Smart...Be Safe: Phishing

We have all received the following types of get-rich-quick and account review e-mail messages, and most of us know that our best response is simply to delete them.

Called "phishing" -- sending an e-mail to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information or money that will be used for identity theft.

- The family of a deposed African leader offers to share his wealth if you will let them use your U.S. bank account.
- You've won millions in a Euro lottery for which your e-mail address was "automatically" entered.
- There has been suspicious activity, and you are urgently re-

quested to update your bank, credit union, PayPal or eBay account.

- You can make thousands of dollars by using your personal computer while working at home.

These messages all have something in common -- if you respond to them, you will be asked to send money -- sometimes thousands of dollars -- or you will be asked to provide credit card account information. The problem is... this money or information would go to a thief.

E-mails such as these come to our mailboxes because some people continue to take the bait.

We might presume that people who are new to personal comput-

ing are the ones who are most susceptible to these types of e-mail offers. However, according to recent anecdotal evidence, students and others who are living on their own for the first time also are becoming victims. Ironically, the group of people we might think is the most tech-savvy might also be among the naive.

Recently, local Washington Mutual Bank officials prevented at least three students from purchasing thousands of dollars in money orders that were to be sent overseas to e-mail scammers.

Don't become a victim, and don't presume that students, friends and family know about e-mail scammers. Spread the word.

By Alex Morones
Technical Writer and Editor, Office of Information Technology



The UTSA Police Department would like to welcome all new and returning students, faculty and staff to UTSA! Have a safe Fall 2009 semester!



Chief's Corner By Acting Chief Dan Pena

Fall Semester Challenges

One of the things that I like about the Summer Semester is that the level of activity on and around the campus is greatly reduced. This gives us all an opportunity to catch up on some of the tasks we have been putting off due to our previously busy schedule. There is plenty of parking available so you can come and go without worrying if you can find a parking spot when you arrive to start your day or when you return from lunch. The lines at most of the eating establishments on and off campus are much shorter so we can easily enjoy our meals and still have plenty of time to get back to the office or make our next class. There is less pedestrian traffic so vehicle operators are not running the daily gauntlet of pedestrians walking in front of their vehicles while they are preoccupied talking on their cell phones.

But as we all know, all good things must come to an end. In a few short weeks the Fall Semester will

begin, bringing with it many returning students along with thousands of new ones. All of the close-in parking will be gone by 08:30 and traffic will be backed-up at each of the intersections while faculty, staff and students alike compete for parking spaces. Many faculty and staff personnel will use on-campus eating establishments because they know they will lose their parking space upon their return and it may take them awhile to locate another one.

The Fall Semester is the most challenging time of the year for the Police Department. Calls for service increase dramatically in just about every category. The greater the population the greater the opportunity for incidents to occur, and they will. Now is the time to plan as well as prepare for the challenges we all will face the week of the 24th when the fall classes begin.

Arrive early so you have plenty of time to locate a legal parking

space. Even motorcycle parking will be a challenge at certain times of the day. Take advantage of the university shuttle system which can usually transport you from a distant parking lot to your destination every 10 – 15 minutes. We all like to park close but waiting in the parking lot for 45 minutes for someone to leave is not always an option. In addition, you are usually competing against someone else who will also believe that any space that opens in that row of parking belongs to them. These confrontations can be avoided by using the shuttle system.

We ask that all members of the UTSA community be patient, considerate, courteous and drive safely while on campus. A little pre-planning will save you time as well as reduce the stress associated with your daily commute. We thank each of you for every effort you make to help us achieve success in our promise to protect your future...today!