

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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## UTSA Police Receives CALEA Accreditation

The UTSA Police Department was recently presented with the certificate of accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies during a special ceremony on January 22, 2009 at the Retama Auditorium of the University Center



Dr. Theron Bowman delivers keynote address

Building at the 1604 Campus. The long process of accreditation began in 2005 with an initial application to CALEA. Since then, much time and effort has taken place in the implementation of General Order revisions and compiling proof documents to document the more than 1,000 standards the UTSAPD is required to follow. UTSAPD also went through a thorough six day on-site assessment by three CALEA assessors in September 2008 as well as a final review committee hearing during CALEA's fall conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The UTSA Police Department was awarded accreditation on December 6, 2008.

Formed in 1979, CALEA was created through the combined efforts of four major law enforcement executive associations to develop a set of standards that meet professionally recognized criteria for excellence in management and service delivery. UTSAPD joins more than 746 accredited law enforcement agencies in the United States and the only agency in Bexar County to be accredited.

CALEA accreditation is consistent with UTSA's strategic plan toward becoming a premier research institution.

During the January 22 ceremony, Mr. Kerry Kennedy (Vice President of Business Affairs) remarked on the CALEA accreditation process and the number of standards required by the UTSAPD to follow.

Dr. Ricardo Romo (President, the University of Texas at San Antonio) spoke about how UTSAPD contributes to safety of students, faculty and staff and how that safety contributes to a successful university.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Theron Bowman who is the Chief of Police for the Arlington, TX Police Department and a CALEA Commissioner. Dr. Bowman commented on the accreditation process and how the UTSA Police Department was rated well above other police departments in the country.

Recognition was also given to members of the UTSAPD Accreditation Section for their contribution in acquiring accreditation. The UTSAPD Accreditation Section was awarded the Chief's Commendation Award by Chief David Hernandez. The UTSAPD Accreditation Section consists of Sgt. Robert Hudson as the Accreditation Manager and Administrative Assistant Gene Garcia as the assistant. Officers Melody Piepho and Mark Smith were temporarily reassigned from their normal duties for a period of several months to help complete the process.

In addition to the many UTSA officials who attended the cere-



Presentation of CALEA Accreditation

mony, honored guests included chiefs and command staff officers from the San Antonio Police Department, Our Lady of the Lake University Police Department, the Alamo Community College District Police Department and St. Mary's



Dr. Ricardo Romo (UTSA President) speaks

University Police Department. Several federal law enforcement agencies were also on hand including Mr. Ralph G. Diaz, Special Agent in Charge of the San Antonio field office for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Closing remarks were made by Chief David Hernandez who commented on how proud he is of all the achievements of the UTSA Police Department.



Accreditation Team Receives Award



UTSA-PD wants you to be informed about weather updates

**SECURE IT.  
KEEP IT.**



UTSA Police Department

## UTSA Weather Updates: What You Need to Know

Since the San Antonio area will face winter weather for another month or so, there is always the possibility that UTSA may temporarily close because of icy conditions.

A primary resource for UTSA weather-related updates is (210) 458-SNOW (7669).

At any time of the year, whether there is ice or excessive rain, there are three methods that UTSA administration communicates the operational status of the university:

- 458-SNOW
- UTSA Web sites: UTSA home page, UTSA Today
- Local media

UTSA faculty, staff and students can call 458-SNOW at any time for information about the Tri-Campus community regarding

the status of classes and employee work schedules. The line accepts up to 138 calls at a time, but if there is a busy signal, please be patient and try again.

The UTSA Office of University Communications will update two Web sites (the UTSA home page and UTSA Today) with information on the university's status.

Although University Communications attempts to distribute current information to all media outlets in San Antonio, the process can be difficult because of the large number of phone calls received by newspapers and radio and television stations during periods of severe weather.

UTSA makes every attempt to provide all media outlets correct information in a timely manner, but the university initially communicates with both WOAI Televi-

sion and WOAI Radio.

When adverse weather occurs during the night, the UTSA Police Department advises the vice president for business affairs concerning weather conditions. The vice president consults with the provost and vice president for student affairs before advising the president, who determines whether or not to close the university. Officials attempt to make a decision about whether or not to close the campuses by approximately 5 a.m. Subsequently, staff members in University Communications work to change the message on 458-SNOW, update the Web sites and contact media outlets.

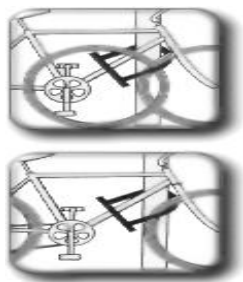
UTSA is committed to making the best decision relevant to the safety of all students, faculty and staff.

Reference: UTSA Today By Tim Brownlee

**Employee Kudos:** Go to Guards Sanders, Pearson & Smith for helping pedestrians cross from Lot 4 to the Business Building each morning this spring semester. Kudos also to Guards Smith and Bowen for their handling of a non-affiliated male who had mental issues and was non-cooperative. They kept the situation low-key and didn't get frustrated with the man. Responding officers thought the situation could have easily spiraled out of control, but the two guards kept it from happening.

**Way to go!**

## Campus Crime Alert: Recent Bike Thefts



Proper methods to secure a bike

Photo from www.menomonee-falls.org

The UTSA PD wants to alert the UTSA community about an increase in the number of bicycle thefts on campus that have recently occurred. Bikes that were stolen were either unsecured or not secured properly. Follow the tips below to reduce the chances of your bike getting stolen:

Keep your bicycle locked at all times, and use a strong lock. Use a case-hardened U-type lock. Make sure to fill up as much space inside the "U" as possible.

If you notice someone "hanging around" a bicycle rack, report

this to UTSA-PD. Call 210.458.4911 if you notice suspicious people anywhere on campus.

Record your bicycle's make, model and serial number and store this information in a safe place. In case it is stolen, you will have this information available.

Bicycle permits are required by Parking and Transportation Services. Permits will be issued at no charge and may be applied for online at [www.utsa.edu/parking/bikeREG.htm](http://www.utsa.edu/parking/bikeREG.htm).

Protect your bike by registering it. Registering your bike greatly aids in its return to you if it is recovered by the police. Options include the National Bike Registry at

[www.nationalbikeregistry.com](http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com).

If you observe suspicious activity that makes you think someone is committing a crime, immediately call the University Police at 210.458.4911. An officer will be dispatched to the location to determine if a crime is being committed.



**Volunteer to be a floor captain for UTSA.** (Photo from University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee website)

## “Safety Highlights” by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

### UTSA and its Giant Voice

The University of Texas at San Antonio has an indoor and outdoor mass notification system at the 1604 Campus to augment UTSA's emergency notification system. Called Giant Voice, the system features four outdoor speaker arrays that deliver recorded or live voice announcements that can be optimally heard within 1,600 feet of each speaker array mounted at UTSA.

“UTSA has built a rigorous, multi-layered and multifaceted notification system,” said Donovan

Agans, UTSA Director of Business Continuity and Emergency Management. “Our Reverse 911, Giant Voice, closed-circuit TV and the Internet are all facets of an intensive effort to ensure UTSA has multiple ways to inform students, faculty, staff and visitors of emergency situations. We are not relying on any one means to inform our community of a crisis.”

The system is integrated into existing voice-alert fire alarms inside buildings and wirelessly activated from a central control system. As additional buildings

are equipped with voice fire alarms, they will be integrated into Giant Voice. Research also is underway on systems appropriate for the UTSA Downtown Campus and UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures.

“Because of the broadcast range of Giant Voice, it is the right system for the 1604 Campus,” said Agans. “We will plan for appropriate and effective systems for the Downtown Campus and ITC that do not unnecessarily disrupt surrounding neighborhoods and businesses.”

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

This month, I'd like to continue with what happens when the Criminal Investigations Section files a case with the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. As I said last month, Detectives will prepare a case file of a completed investigation and take it to the appropriate section of the District Attorney's Office.

Once we deliver the case, it gets reviewed and is either accepted or rejected. If the case is a felony, it will go before a Grand Jury for indictment. The Grand Jury will then choose to either indict the suspect, based upon the evidence, or “No Bill” which means that there is not enough evidence for an indictment. In a misde-

meanor case, the victim is usually asked to complete an Impact Statement or Crime Loss Form.

In both felony and misdemeanor cases, if there is probable cause Bexar County will issue a warrant of arrest for the suspect. The term probable cause means: a series of facts or circumstances which would lead a reasonable person to believe that a crime has been or is being committed.

Once the warrant has been issued and served, meaning the suspect is in custody, an arraignment will take place. An arraignment is a formal reading of the charges. The suspect, now called a Defendant, is now allowed to enter a plea. The three common

pleas are: guilty, not guilty, no contest. No contest basically means “I'm not saying I did the crime and I'm not saying I didn't”. If a Defendant pleads guilty or no contest, there is usually no trial. If the Defendant pleads not guilty, a trial will most likely occur. At the end, the Defendant can be found guilty or not guilty. If the Defendant is found guilty, the punishment phase begins which may result in a fine, probation or jail time.

I hope this clears up any misconceptions of how a case flows through the system here in Bexar County.



Welcome our newest guard, Pablo Villarreal, who will start on February 2nd. Welcome aboard!

### A Very Special Note:

On Wednesday, December 31, 2008 Ms. Rose Mendez, a beloved UTSA employee, collapsed outside of the University Center. The UTSA Police Department was called and Cpl. James Price was dispatched to the scene. Cpl. Price immediately began CPR and continued to administer CPR until paramedics arrived and took over. Ms. Mendez was rushed to an area hospital; however, she died on January 7, 2009.

Although everyone wished for a different outcome to this tragic event, Cpl. Price provided the necessary assistance that gave Ms. Mendez a chance to survive. Perhaps just as importantly his efforts, as well as those of the paramedics, gave the family a chance to be with her for a few precious days and a chance to prepare individually for the final outcome.

Ms. Mendez was known to many of us and many people at UTSA thought very, very highly of her. So, on behalf of the victim's family, friends, co-workers and the entire university, thank you Corporal Price for responding so quickly and most importantly thank you for doing everything you could do to save her life.

The UTSA Police Department wishes to express our condolences as well as our thoughts and prayers to the family of Ms. Rose Mendez in this most difficult time.

**SECURE IT.  
KEEP IT.**



**UTSA Police Department**

**Chief  
Hernandez says:**  
**Congratulations to  
Guard Ray Garcia,  
ITC, who will be  
retiring after 22 years  
of service. We  
appreciate his  
dedication and  
commitment to serve  
and protect.**



**UTSA Police Chief  
David Hernandez**

## Secure It Keep It Campaign Launched for Spring Semester

The UTSA Police Department presents again the "Secure It, Keep It" program, an anti-theft awareness campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to decrease theft on campus by creating awareness among students, faculty and staff to secure their belongings and avoid potential theft.

A 2007 study of thefts that occurred at The University of Texas at San Antonio showed that 71% of all thefts were crimes of opportunity where the property was left unattended in an unsecured area for a specific period of time and where some action by the owner could have prevented the theft. The goal of the "Secure It, Keep It" campaign is to build awareness to decrease the potential for theft on campus.

UTSA-PD requested the assis-

tance of Dr. Thomas F. Cannon, Department of Marketing, College of Business, to assist in the development of the awareness campaign. Dr. Cannon graciously accepted the task. During a mini-semester Tourism Marketing class, students were asked to create slogans and determine communication methods. Additionally, Captain Douglas Sonego and Corporal Geoffrey Merritt attended the class to share theft statistics and to listen to the students' feedback on the designs.

Through a series of meetings with Dr. Cannon, a logo and slogan were agreed upon. The logo conveys the sense of awareness to secure belongings and avoid potential thefts while the words reinforce the visual of the logo.

Chief Hernandez said "Secure It,

Keep It is a great educational tool that will be utilized to make it difficult for those who come onto our campus looking to take what belongs to others. Captain Sonego, Dr. Cannon, and our Crime Prevention Officer, Corporal Geoff Merritt are to be commended for their efforts in creating such an excellent program. It is only when we work together, police, faculty, staff, and students that we can ensure that the good guys win! "

The "Secure It, Keep It" campaign will run during specific periods of each semester to coincide with the historical increase in campus thefts that occur in September and April. Advertising efforts will include print and electronic media to promote the campaign.

Reference: Dr. Cannon's "Secure It, Keep It" proposal

## Chief's Corner By Chief David Hernandez

### Our New Mindset of Preventing Crime-Part I

The UTSA PD has continued to do all it can to address crime on all of our campuses. The last three years has brought a great deal of change to the department. From new technology to a new vision for the future, change is the one constant that we can depend on. Still change for the sake of change is of little value. Our emphasis on change is more than that, it is about becoming a police department that keeps the promise captured in our motto, "Protecting...your future today!"

How do we fulfill the promise to protect and serve all our customers and to do it today so that the promise of a bright tomorrow is a more certain one? We do it by addressing crime in a proactive fashion utilizing the input of all whom we serve. We do it by shifting our crime fighting paradigm to

one that is more applicable to addressing crime in today's world. That shift will focus on several areas some of which were recently captured by leadership guru, Dr. Steven Covey. (A Whole New Mindset on Fight Crime) Dr. Covey has rightfully called on all police professionals to attack crime from a different perspective, a new model. The model of the past, the one most law enforcement agencies find themselves falling back on is one where we react to crime. However, now more than ever we are obligated to resist being reactive and to focus on being proactive.

Proactive crime fighting means we must anticipate crime before it happens by analyzing past trends in order to take measures to prevent it from reoccurring. Sir Robert Peel, long considered the father of the concept of urban policing, stated over 100 years ago, "The

police are the public and the public are the police and the test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action dealing with it." What a powerful statement, you see policing is more about preventing crime than our presence in responding to the crime once it has occurred. Even more important is recognizing that preventing crime is not something the police can do without the help of the public, thus today more than ever we must join hands with our students, staff, and faculty if we are going to prevent crime from happening. It is our hope that each of you will join with us to help us prevent crime and make this the safest campus in the State of Texas! (Next month, I'll share more on how we are moving towards a mindset of preventing crime verses reacting to it.)