

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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Prevent Your Identity From Being Stolen

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personally identifying information, like your name, Social Security number, credit card number or other financial account information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. It is estimated that as many as 9 million Americans have their identities stolen each year. In fact, you or someone you know may have experienced some form of identity theft.

Identity theft is serious. While some identity theft victims can resolve their problems quickly, others spend hundreds of dollars and many days repairing damage to their good name and credit record. Some consumers victimized by identity theft may lose out on job opportunities, or be denied loans for education, housing or cars because of negative information on their credit reports.

Identity theft starts with the misuse of your personally identifying infor-

mation. Skilled identity thieves may use a variety of methods to get hold of your information, including dumpster diving and phishing. Once they have your personal information, identity thieves use it in a variety of ways. One of the most common ways is through credit card fraud. They may open new credit card accounts in your name. When they use the cards and don't pay the bills, the delinquent accounts appear on your credit report. Other methods include phone or utilities fraud, bank/finance fraud and government documents fraud.

The best way to find out is to monitor your accounts and bank statements each month, and check your credit report on a regular basis. If you check your credit report regularly, you may be able to limit the damage caused by identity theft. Unfortunately, many consumers learn that their identity has been stolen after some damage has been done.



UTSA-PD wants you to be aware of ID Theft. (Photo doctorbulldog.wordpress.com)

What should you do if your identity is stolen? Filing a police report, checking your credit reports, notifying creditors, and disputing any unauthorized transactions are some of the steps you must take immediately to restore your good name.

Awareness is an effective weapon against many forms of identity theft. Be aware of how information is stolen and what you can do to protect yours, monitor your personal information to uncover any problems quickly, and know what to do when you suspect your identity has been stolen.

Reference: www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/

Capt. Sonogo Awarded Outstanding Professional Staff Member by SGA

On April 2, 2009 the Student Government Association held The University Life Awards which recognizes excellence at UTSA by honoring outstanding students, student organizations, faculty, and staff members. During the ceremony, Captain Douglas Sonogo of the UTSA Police Department was awarded the Outstanding Professional Staff Member for his significant contributions to student life and the University community.

In several instances, Student Activities has had to coordinate security and police needs from the Police Department. Student Activities stated that they have always found Captain Sonogo will-

ing to go above and beyond for student programs.

He has ensured the police needs for the campus are met while supporting student programs such as Roadrunner Days, Convocation, Commencement, concerts and other major events. There were additional considerations for 2008 due to election year issues. Many of the political candidates wanted to come to campus and Captain Sonogo helped plan for security issues during their visits. He also helped with the extra initiatives of the Election Watch Party and the Mayoral Debate.

According to the nomination, "Although modest, Captain

Sonogo is very proud of everything that is being achieved at UTSA and the student life on campus. He is an outstanding professional and committed to the university in every way possible. This award will allow acknowledgement of an unsung hero."

References: SGA website, Mr. Barry McKinney (Director, Student Activities)



Capt. Sonogo accepts SGA Award (photo VPSA)



Public Safety leadership training held at UTSA (Photo UTSA Today)

UTSAPD Hosts Leadership Training Course

The UTSA Police Department in conjunction with the Boerne Police Department and the New Braunfels Police Department hosted the "Leadership in Police Organizations" training course produced by the International Association of Chiefs of Police during the month of March.

With approximately 25 law enforcement, fire and public safety leaders in attendance at UTSA, they finished the final segment

of a three-week training course. For one week each month since January, the group gathered to learn leadership skills based on the tenets of dispersed leadership, which reflect documented best practices in the public and private sectors, the military and the justice system.

The course is rooted in community-oriented policing theory and addresses leadership as an agency-wide concept, reaching all ranks and positions. In recognition of the diversity of police agencies and the communities they serve, the model is designed to be adaptable to an agency's individual mission and philosophy.

Even though the model is flexible, it has at its foundation a set of core values that reflect the nature of the law enforcement profession: duty, honor, service, dignity, respect for others, integrity, courage and loyalty.

Reference: Lt. Stephanie Padula



Welcome!

Welcome Guards Bryan Steele and Gean Landrau who started on April 27th. Welcome aboard!

Employee Kudos: Business Affairs is proud to recognize Cynthia Govea, Information Technology Associate II, University Police, as a 2nd quarter recipient of the Celebrating Excellence Award for FY 2009.

Cynthia was a major team player in her involvement with the upgrade and placement of security cameras and promoted changes involving the department's emergency mass notification system. She is responsible for a number of technological advancements in the police department's Communications Center as well as the training associated with this equipment. Cynthia Govea is the embodiment of the Business Affairs brand: "Your Partner for Successful Solutions." **Way to go!** Reference: VPBA website



Captain Dan Kiley, Kerry Kennedy, Cynthia Govea, Assistant Chief Pina, and Chief Hernandez

UTSAPD Joins Click It or Ticket Campaign

For anyone who complains about getting a ticket for not buckling up when driving or riding in a motor vehicle, here's a crash course in reality from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

- 41,059 people were killed on America's roadways in 2007.
- Over 14,000 passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2007 were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal crash.

While those may sound like just statistics, the UTSA Police Department knows from personal experience that those numbers are the actual faces of mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles and friends.

This goes to the heart of UTSAPD's mission to protect the public. That is why we have joined with thousands of other State and local law enforcement agencies to announce support for the 2009 national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization, which runs May 18 to May 31.

Seat belts can be credited with saving more than 15,000 lives in 2007 alone. Thanks in part to high visibility enforcement campaigns, like *Click It or Ticket*, this has led to an all time high observed national seat belt usage rate of 83 percent in 2008.

People often ask, "Aren't there more serious criminals on the street other than those who

simply are not buckling up? They're not hurting anyone but themselves." To the contrary, the people who choose to disobey the law by not wearing their seat belts are taking a chance with not only their lives, but the emotional and financial health of their families, friends and our community.

Law enforcement will be out in force to show our dedication to solving this problem. We want 100 percent of motorists to buckle up. Buckling up costs you nothing, but the costs of NOT buckling up may be a ticket, or worse — your life. Treat this as a tough and potentially life-saving reminder: *Click It or Ticket!*

Reference: buckleuptexas.com



UTSA-PD wants you to wear your seatbelt
(Photo texasclickorticket.com)



Update your Reverse 911 information

Kudos to Tomas Fuentes (Access Control Assistant) for providing great customer service, "thanks for the excellent curb side service." "Tommy is a nice reflection on your department." Way to go Tommy!

May 25 is National Missing Children's Day

It's a reminder for all parents, guardians, teachers and other role models to make child safety a priority.

"Safety Highlights" by Donovan Agans (Director BCEM)

Register, Update Reverse 911 Contact Info

Reverse 911, the UTSA emergency notification system, is active at the UTSA Tri-campuses to keep students faculty and staff informed in case of an extreme emergency in which there is an imminent threat to life. Those who register for the notifications system will be contacted by telephone, text message and e-mail if a situation of this magnitude arises. Messages will include pertinent emergency information and protective actions.

All UTSA telephones (458 numbers) and UTSA e-mail addresses have been uploaded into the Reverse 911 system. To ensure the highest level of accuracy, UTSA students must verify personal con-

tact information in the system each semester when enrolling for classes. UTSA faculty and staff must verify the information each year when purchasing a parking permit.

Registration and information verification can be done in two ways:

Log on to ASAP (<https://asap.utsa.edu>), scroll to "Personal Information" and select "Reverse 911 Emergency Alert Contacts." (If problems occur during registration, e-mail the UTSA Police Department at utsapd@utsa.edu.)

Or download a Reverse 911 form at the Office of Business Continuity and Emergency Management (<http://129.115.102.107/oepr/reverse911.htm>) Web site and submit it to the UTSA PD. Forms

are available in English and Spanish.

Registrants are immediately active in the system.

UTSA supervisors should print copies of the Reverse 911 registration forms for employees who do not have access to a computer.

"We are pleased that many members of the UTSA community have already registered for Reverse 911," said Donovan Agans, UTSA Director of Business Continuity and Emergency Management. "We encourage UTSA community members to register or update their information if they have not done so, because a 100-percent participation rate can greatly enhance campus safety."

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

Interviews & Confessions


As the semester winds down, and the stress of final exams begins, let me take a few minutes to talk about the process we go through when we talk to someone. I'm sure by now that you have seen probably every cop show on television. Whether it is Law and Order, NYPD Blue or CSI, it always seems that these shows wrap up the most horrific crimes in under an hour. Most of the time, they save the drama for the last ten minutes when they have the bad guy under the bright light in a dark room. What used to be called an interrogation is now, more politely, called an interview.

Getting someone to confess to a crime is not a simple task. It takes detectives a long time to develop the skills and expertise to get someone to admit they've done something wrong. I have personally conducted or been involved in thousands of interviews and I'll tell you each one is different. Sometimes, the person I'm talking with immediately invokes their right to remain silent. Some people will talk for hours, but never confess to what they've done. Some people, as soon as their seat is warm, will tell me everything I need to know and probably some things I don't.

There is a fine line in conducting an interview. The law says that


we cannot use any type of coercive methods to elicit a confession. That means we can't make false promises or threatening remarks. We also cannot deprive anyone of sleep, food, water or the need to use the restroom. We try to get people to tell us what they've done to make it easier for them later on.

I'm sure you'll watch a few cop shows over the summer and think of this while you're watching them. Remember, what makes for good drama on TV usually will never be done in a real police interview. Stay safe over the summer and, as always, keep an eye on your stuff.



IT'S A REAL

**Click It
or
Ticket
May 18
to 31,
2009**



LY BIG DEAL.

Buckle Up UTSA!



UTSAPD wants you to be informed about emergency blue phones

Emergency Blue Phones are Important to Campus Safety

UTSA has over 100 emergency phones throughout our three campuses. Blue phones marked "emergency" are designed to dial the UTSA Police Department directly when the red button is pushed. Callers talk directly with the police dispatcher through the speaker. Appropriate emergency personnel are then dispatched. This type of emergency phone is also equipped with a blue light that flashes when the red button is pushed.

All emergency calls from these phones go to the UTSA Police

Department communications center and are handled as an emergency. All of the emergency phones have a caller identification system. A police officer will be dispatched, even if the caller does not answer the police dispatcher.

We do weekly inspections of all of our emergency phones. Any non-working phones discovered are taped off to let you know they are not working and work orders are placed to get those phones repaired as quickly as possible.

Why Use Them?

We encourage all criminal activity to be reported immediately to the UTSA-PD. If something is happening to you or to another person, we want to respond. Even if you are unsure of what is going on, use the emergency phone and let us know!



Chief Hernandez says:

Kudos to Officers Samaniego and Diaz and Guards Walter and Lander who working together were able to stop a stolen vehicle and recover stolen property on behalf of the victims and the Houston PD.



UTSA Police Chief David Hernandez

The UTSA Police Department wishes to congratulate all of the spring 2009 graduates!



Good luck in your future endeavors!



Chief's Corner By Chief David Hernandez

Responding to the Swine Flu

We have all recently read about the Swine Flu situation and several confirmed cases in Dallas and Guadalupe Counties. As the reports continue to come in, it is becoming clear that this flu is a new challenge that we must all learn to deal with. Your UTSA leaders have quickly come together to ensure that all is being done to safeguard your well being.

The UTSA Health Services Office is attending to the needs of students providing information regarding the flu and guidance on what to do if they are exhibiting symptoms. The UTSA Police Department and Emergency Management Office have closely coordinated with various other agencies to ensure that we are providing

timely and up to date information regarding this situation. The Emergency Response Team, consisting of various components of the university, has and will continue to meet to ensure that all is being done to address any reported illnesses on any of our campuses with the goal of minimizing the spread of this flu.

While there have been a few deaths that are now linked to this flu in the California area, the overall opinion from various critical resources is that this flu for the most part must be treated like any flu. All variations of the flu have the potential of resulting in death if not attended to, especially for those who experience severe symptoms. In the United States alone, we average 35 to 36 thousand deaths annually

which can be attributed to known variations of the influenza. It is critical that anyone experiencing flu like symptoms limit their contacts with others and seek medical attention as soon as reasonably possible.

In an effort to provide all of our students, staff, and faculty with updated information, we will continue to communicate through UTSA Today and the Health Services and UTSA PD web sites; links are provided below. Our efforts will continue through the end of the semester and for as long as concerns regarding the spread of the flu remain. We remain committed to protecting your future...today!

For more information, go to:
<http://www.utsa.edu/today/2009/04/swineflu2.cfm>
www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu/
www.cdc.gov/swineflu/