

The University of  
Texas at San  
Antonio

POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

# ' Runner Beat

Protecting Your Future... Today

A Campus Safety Newsletter from the University Police Department



Volume VI, Issue X

October 2009

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[www.utsa.edu/utsapd](http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd)

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## What is the Annual Security Report?

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act is the landmark federal law that requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. Because the law is tied to participation in federal student financial aid programs it applies to most institutions of higher education both public and private. It is enforced by the U.S. Department of Education.

The "Clery Act" is named in memory of 19 year old Lehigh University freshman Jeanne Ann Clery who was raped and murdered while asleep in her residence hall room on April 5, 1986. Her parents discovered that students hadn't been told about violent crimes on the campus in the three years before her murder. They joined with other campus crime victims and persuaded Congress to enact this law.

The law was amended in 1992 to add a requirement that schools afford the victims of campus sex-

ual assault certain basic rights, and was amended again in 1998 to expand the reporting requirements. The law was most recently amended to require campuses comply with "Megan's Law" beginning in 2003. "Megan's Law" requires campuses to provide the public where information about registered sex offenders on campus could be obtained.

### Clery Act Summary

- Schools must publish an annual report disclosing campus security policies and three years worth of selected crime statistics.
- Schools must make timely warnings to the campus community about crimes that pose an ongoing threat to students and employees.
- Each institution with a police or security department must have a public crime log.
- The U.S. Department of Education centrally collects and disseminates the crime statistics.
- Campus sexual assault victims are assured of certain basic rights



Stay informed about  
safety on campus.

Photo from UTSA website

The purpose of the Clery Act is to encourage reporting and the accurate collection of campus crime statistics to promote crime awareness and to enhance campus safety through reliable statistical records.

In addition to the above requirements, the UTSA-PD posts a weekly crime statistics report on the PD website that contains an analysis of current year crimes to include major and minor crimes.

The UTSA 2009 Annual Security Report is available now for download (PDF format):

[www.utsa.edu/utsapd/  
Crime\\_Statistics/2009SecurityReport.pdf](http://www.utsa.edu/utsapd/Crime_Statistics/2009SecurityReport.pdf)

Reference: [www.securityoncampus.org](http://www.securityoncampus.org) & [police.ucmerced.edu](http://police.ucmerced.edu)

## Be Smart...Be Safe: Halloween Safety

Social gatherings and parties are frequently part of college life. At their best, social gatherings or parties are a great place to meet new people, relax, and have fun. At their worst, however, they can be the source of alcohol poisoning, drug overdose, and sexual assault. Any amount of alcohol or drug use can lead to impaired judgment, which can possibly lead to dangerous consequences. It is the responsibility of organizers and attendees to make sure that social events remain fun and safe. Luckily, there are a number of easy steps you can take to increase your

level of safety and help make your memories good ones.

Obey the law! The legal drinking age in Texas is 21 and furnishing alcohol to a minor is an arrestable offense!

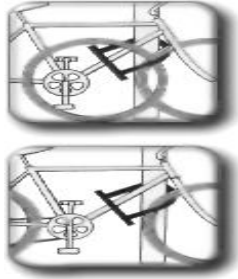
Watch what you drink and know your limits. A good rule is 0-1-3: 0 drinks if you're driving or underage, 1 drink per hour, no more than 3 drinks in an evening.

Avoid illegal drugs - you don't know what's in them or what effect they'll have on you, and they can get you arrested!

Watch out for your friends. Don't let them drive if they have been drinking. Don't leave them at parties alone.

Create a buddy system with your friends. Keep tabs on each other and don't leave a friend stranded without a ride home. Be assertive if you perceive a potentially dangerous situation. Reference: <http://www.thecenter.ucla.edu/parmid.html>





### Proper methods to secure a bike

Photo from [www.memonee-falls.org](http://www.memonee-falls.org)



**National Night Out is Tuesday October 6, 2009. Find out more at**

[www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/](http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/)



**UTSA-PD wants you to be informed about weather updates**

## Campus Crime Alert: Recent Bike Thefts

The UTSAPD 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.

Bikes with cheap locks are easy targets for theft. We have a video of a thief sawing through a cheap bike lock in under 9 seconds. Buy a good lock otherwise you are wasting your money.

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.

**Employee Kudos:** On September 9, 2009 the San Antonio Police Department had a domestic violence case that involved a hearing-impaired couple; however, they did not have an interpreter available. UTSAPD's own Telecommunicator Lynn Nevils readily volunteered for this undertaking. The SAPD officer assigned the investigation told UTSAPD that "this domestic violence case could not have been handled without her assistance." With Ms. Nevils assistance, she was able to help interview four people and helped resolve the situation. Ms. Nevils displayed a good attitude by helping another law enforcement agency in need. **Way to go!**

## UTSA Weather Updates: What You Need to Know

Since the San Antonio area will not 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



Matt DeLeon, UTSA SGA President & UTSA President Ricardo Romo receive seasonal flu vaccinations from Ellen Bridges, R.N., UTSA assistant director of nursing, and Loretta League, L.V.N. (Photo by Mark McClendon)

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

UTSA Student Health Services is offering seasonal flu vaccinations on a walk-in basis at the clinics on the Main and Downtown campuses. The cost is \$15 for students and \$20 for faculty and staff members.

Payment can be made by UTSA Card (with a balance), cash or check. Students, faculty and staff must present their UTSA Card receive the vaccination.

According to Elizabeth Stanczak, UTSA executive director of health

and counseling services, additional seasonal flu vaccine is available and will be ordered according to the response of the campus community. Availability of H1N1 flu vaccine at UTSA has not yet been confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; an announcement will be made when it is available.

Additionally, flu vaccination clinics are planned for various locations around the UTSA campuses.

For more information, visit the UTSA Student Health Services Web site or call (210) 458-4142 (Main Campus) or (210) 458-2930 (Downtown Campus).

Clinic locations and flu vaccine hours

Recreation and Wellness Center Room 1.500, Main Campus -- Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Buena Vista Street Building Room 1.308, Downtown Campus -- Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Reference: Tim Brownlee Assistant Director of Public Affairs

**SECURE IT.  
KEEP IT.**



**UTSA Police Department**

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.



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

It’s been a busy few weeks here at the Criminal Investigations Section. Unfortunately, we have been investigating a series of car burglaries that have occurred in various lots. The good news is, with the help of our video surveillance system and good old-fashioned police work; we have already charged three people. We are currently investigating two other people that hit some cars both here at UTSA and just off-campus. We have developed two suspects, again by doing excellent police work, and are writing an arrest warrant for one of the suspects as I write this. After we arrest this person, I’m sure we’ll be able to identify and

charge the second person involved as well.

We also have been working on identifying who has been responsible for several bicycle thefts from around campus. The bikes are easy targets for the bad guys who steal them and then trade them on the street to score some quick cash. A stolen \$500.00 bike can be sold on the street for as little as \$20.00. Sure, we have video of a couple of these guys, but as I said before no one walks around with a name tag hanging around their necks. Rest assured, we are giving this 100% and I hope we can soon recover some of these bikes to get back to their owners.

On another note, last week I had the opportunity to do a quick presentation to a class on crime scene processing. Unfortunately, in my almost twenty years of doing this job, I have dealt with more crimes scenes that I certainly wish I had to. I was able to bring one of my other detectives to help and was able to give a quick overview of what needs to be done. I don’t think I put anyone to sleep.

I am also working on a Twitter page so I can better communicate with you all. I’ll keep you updated and let you know when I’m up and running. Until next time, please remember to keep an eye on your belongings.

## Schedule of Events For October

**Wednesday Oct. 3, 2009**

**Greek 101**

1:00 pm at University Center  
Leadership education and awareness programming for all Greek organizations.

**Tuesday Oct. 6, 2009**

**National Night Out**

7:00 pm at UOA II Clubhouse  
Watch a movie and eat snacks at the Rowdy House to celebrate National Night Out

**Thursday Oct. 8, 2009**

**Thirsty Thursdays**

11:00 am at UC Paseo  
Come have a thirst-quenching good time with the BARR Consultants!

**Saturday Oct. 10, 2009**

**Child ID Event w/Student Affairs**

10:00 pm at Downtown Campus  
Child ID/Fingerprint Card at the Downtown Family Fest

**Monday Oct. 12, 2009**

**Health and Wellness Fair**

10:00 am at Downtown Campus  
UTSA's Student Health Services has lined up the Health and Wellness Expo for the academic year

**Thursday Oct. 15, 2009**

**Coffee With the Cops**

8:00 pm at UC Starbucks  
The UTSA PD Crime Prevention Unit will be at the UC Starbucks. Come have some coffee with us!

**Oct. 19 to 23, 2009**

**Alcohol Awareness Week**

Various events to be held throughout campus. Go to [www.utsa.edu/sa/barr/](http://www.utsa.edu/sa/barr/) for complete schedule

**Monday Oct. 19, 2009**

**Alcohol Awareness Info Table**

10:00 pm at UC Paseo  
UTSA PD Crime Prevention Unit will take part in Alcohol Awareness Week

## Lost and Found

All found property that is turned in to the University Police Lost & Found section is stored at the University Police Lost & Found for 60 days. After 60 days, the found property is transferred to the Surplus Property Department for public auctions or further disposition.

To report lost property items or to make inquiries regarding lost property call 210.458.4242 (24 hours a day). To claim found property items, individuals must present a valid Texas Driver's license, UTSA photo ID card or a valid photo ID card from another source; military ID or another state photo ID card. Individuals must be able to accurately describe the property that was lost in order to claim property from the lost & found section.

The below listed items are currently being held by UTSA PD. If not claimed in 30 days, they will be disposed of in accordance with policy.



Qty	Item	Description	Qty	Item	Description
29	BIKES	VARIOUS BRANDS	1	TRANSCRIPT	BELONGING TO SARAH E COMPTON
10	CELL PHONES	VARIOUS BRANDS	1	PAPER WORK	BELONGING TO JOEL TAMEZ
27	BOOKS	VARIOUS TITLES	1	TX CERT OF TITLE	BELONGING TO ROSS J MACDOWALL
65	ELECTRONICS	VARIOUS ITEMS	1	ROADRUNNER ROUNDUP	BELONGING TO JACK CATTANACH
15	CALCULATORS	VARIOUS BRANDS	1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO ROCHELL R PETERMAN
19	JEWELRY	VARIOUS PIECES	1	GAS CARD	BELONGING TO SARAH THOMPSON
1	PURSE		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO JOHN M BEAKLEY
8	WALLET		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO JOSE A MEDELLIN
23	SETS OF KEYS/HOLDER		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO JEANNA M CUELLAR
42	SUNGLASSES/READING GLASSES	VARIOUS BRANDS	1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO MATHIAS C OMETU
6	EYE GLASS CASE		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO MARIANO S CINAROGLU
1	SILVER TENSION ROD		1	ID CARD	BELONGING TO ANN TAYLOR
4	BACK PACK/BOOK BAG		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO ABRIL LERMA
2	UMBRELLA		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO ATIYAH ALI
23	NOTEBOOKS		1	TX DL	BELONGING TO JOHN E RAMOS
4	CAP/HATS		1	TX ID	BELONGING TO MARY J RAMIREZ
8	CLOTHING ITEMS		1	TX DL	BELONGING TO ANGELA R OROSCO
1	EASEL		1	TX DL	BELONGING TO ATIYAH S-REED ALI
2	LUNCH BAGS		1	TX DL	BELONGING TO JASMINE D SIMON
1	SCARF		1	ID CARD	BELONGING TO JEROMY E GILBANE
5	OFFICE SUPPLIES		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO ELIZABETH BENAVIDEZ
1	CELL PHONE HOLDER		1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO FAISAL S ZAMKA
1	PAPER WORK	BELONGING TO MARLIN PRESTWOOD	1	LETTER	BELONGING TO GUSTAVO GARCIA
1	PAPER WORK	BELONGING TO JESSICA STONE	1	LETTER	BELONGING TO KERISSA ARRINGTON
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO KENDALL DURHAM-	1 PAIR	WORK GLOVES	
1	ID CARD	BELONGING TO JENEVIEVE MATA	3	PENCIL/PEN CASE	
1	HEB NAME TAG	BELONGING TO KAYLA	2	KNIVES	
1	FITNESS CARD	BELONGING TO SANTIAGO SIERRA			
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO PHILIP RODRIGUEZ			
1	TX DL	BELONGING TO JUAN GARZA-RAMOS			
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO SARAH ZIMMERMANN			
1	BANK CARD	BELONGING TO ZAIDA S MAURICIO			
1	NAME TAG	BELONGING TO MARVIN GONZALES			
1	CHECKBOOK	BELONGING TO YUKIHISA SHIRAKI			
1	SAFELITE AUTO PAPERWORK	BELONGING TO MYRA HERNANDEZ			
1	CHECK	BELONGING TO GRISELDA M MENDOZA			



Sgt. Merritt (top left), Cpl. Weber (top right) and Sgt. Odom (right)

## UTSAPD Announces Promotions, Reassignments

It is with great pleasure that we announce the promotions of Corporal Geoffrey Merritt and Officer Darwin Odom to the position of Sergeant and Officer Eric Weber to Corporal.

Corporal Geoffrey Merritt came to us in 2002 from Trinity University PD where he had been a sergeant. He was transferred from Patrol to Crime Prevention in 2004 and promoted to Corporal in 2006. Geoffrey has done an outstanding job in Crime Prevention. He is responsible for making various presentations to not only students and parents, but faculty and staff as well. Geoffrey has also participated in the TABC Statewide Conference on College & University Symposium. In addition to his Crime Prevention and training duties, Geoffrey also produces the weekly and yearly crime stats reports for the Cleary Act and is editor of the monthly Runner Beat Newsletter.

Geoffrey Merritt's promotion to Sergeant was effective September

6, 2009. He will remain in Crime Prevention.

Officer Darwin Odom came to us in December 2006 and has worked in law enforcement for more than twenty-two years for several law enforcement agencies including Sheriff of Mills County Texas. Darwin is a certified TCLEOSE Instructor and is a certified K-9 Narcotics Interdiction Trainer. Prior to his law enforcement career Darwin retired as a Major in the United States Army. Darwin is a past recipient of the Business Affairs Celebrating Excellence Award for his work in our Community Action Partnership Policing program (CAPP). Darwin holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Darwin Odom's promotion to Sergeant was effective September 6, 2009. He will be assigned to 2nd Shift.

Sergeant Charles Patnode was transferred to Training effective September 6, 2009. Sergeant Patnode has already performed

outstanding work as our Senior Firearms Instructor and has taught many classes in SFST including instructing at the UT System Police Academy on numerous occasions. We look forward to Sergeant Patnode's skills and knowledge in the area of Training and know he will bring our program to a new level of excellence.

Corporal Eric Weber has done an outstanding job as 3rd Shift's Training Coordinator and has contributed in many ways to the development of Patrol officers and guards through his commitment to training. In addition to his role as Field Training Officer, he is Instructor certified and regularly conducts OC training for officers and guards. Eric was also instrumental in development of the Patrol Roll Call Training segments. Eric's promotion was effective Sunday August 30, 2009 he is assigned 2nd Shift.

Reference: E-mail written by Acting Chief Dan Pena

### Acting Chief Pena

says:

**Thanks to all the Officers and Guards who assisted with the visit by Governor Rick Perry. We received numerous compliments about how well organized and secure the event was made by our police presence.**



Acting Chief of Police Dan Pena

### Chief's Corner By Acting Chief Dan Pena

#### Lost and Found Property -

Last month we added a new section to the Runner Beat regarding Lost and Found property. The police department is the central collection point for lost and found property for each of the three campuses. We make every attempt to notify the rightful owner that we have their property and make arrangements so it can be returned. It is a rare occasion for a day to go by when someone does not turn in some type of property or make inquiries to see if someone turned in their missing property. We have had just about anything you can think of associated with a university environment turned in as found property. It could be a pair of dirty socks to a guitar or bag of golf clubs. Various electronics such as cell phones, Ipods, calculators and flash drives are usually at the top

of the list for the most common items turned in. Following in a close second are reading/sun glasses and vehicle keys.

In most cases, property where the owner can be identified, i.e., driver's license, bank/credit cards, wallets and checkbooks, the owner responds in a timely manner and is quickly reunited with his or her property. However, there are many occasions where an owner is identified and notified multiple times and still fails to collect their property. We are required to hold lost and found property for a minimum of 60 days. Property that is not claimed after that period is either destroyed or turned over to the University Surplus Property Department for final disposition. Items of value are usually made available through auction.

Our goal is to return all lost and found property to its rightful owner but unfortunately it isn't always easy to identify an owner when the property isn't or can't be marked. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing the look on the persons face when we return their property. If you ever misplace an item while on campus I ask that you call our police Communications Center at 458-4242 and there is a good chance that we may have it. Sometimes it may take a day or two before it is turned in so make multiple calls until it is no longer reasonable. To claim found property individuals must present a valid form of identification and be able to accurately describe the property they lost.

If you lost some property recently, give us a call, it may be your lucky day!